

POSTER INSIDE

Gintama (2017) and
Kobayashi-san Chi no
Maid Dragon

otaku

I A

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LIFESTYLE: SUKAJAN JACKET | KUMORI | VIVIDBIT | SUMAFO
REVIEWS: KOBAYASHI-SAN CHI NO MAID DRAGON | FUUKA | REWRITE | AO
NO EXORCIST | KONO SUBARASHII SEKAI NI SYUKUFUKUWO! AND MORE~
MANGA: HAJIMETE NO GAL | DEMI-CHAN WA KATARITA | ELDLIVE |
HAKONIWA NO REIJOU NO TANTEI | AGAIN!! | HOKUSAI MESHI SAE AREBA

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Cosplayer: Beru Kashiragu



Finally a Gintama cover. After years of ignoring the obvious, we are here. I generally avoid making popular anime a cover (Yuri on Ice cover was chosen before it aired) because we want to attract otaku to other anime that are just as great or even better than the mainstream.

Since Gintama is having their live action (anime turned live action is now popular??) we decided to cover the 2017 anime to promote both releases.

When I surveyed the contributors about more lifestyle articles, they mentioned stage plays and musicals... maybe next issue we will have some?

— SirKent

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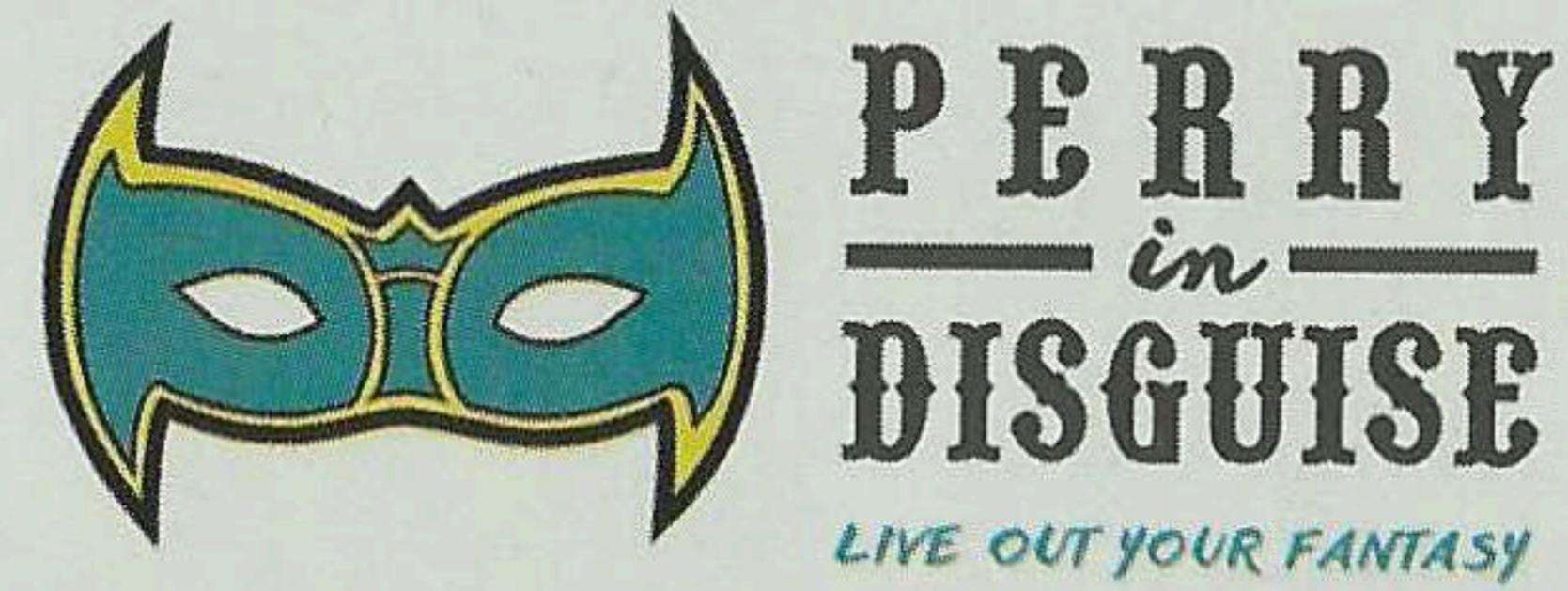
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INBOX



Mai Okano

Hello Otaku Asia!

This is my first time fanmailing (lol). Idk if im doing it right tho. Can you feature HunterxHunter cuz its my favorite Anime in all time!! I dont know if you already featured it before, but please feature it!!

Anyways, keep up the good work, and the magazines, it always makes me smile :) and keep making AWESOME ISSUES!! Srsly, almost all my fave animes are in ur issues, AND I LOVE IT SO MUCH. And last one, SHOUTOUT ALL SETONIANS IN ELIZABETH-SETON SCHOOL SOUTH!! AND SHOUTOUT TO ALL ANIME LOVERS!!

-Yuki (Mia)



Jocelyn Aguilar



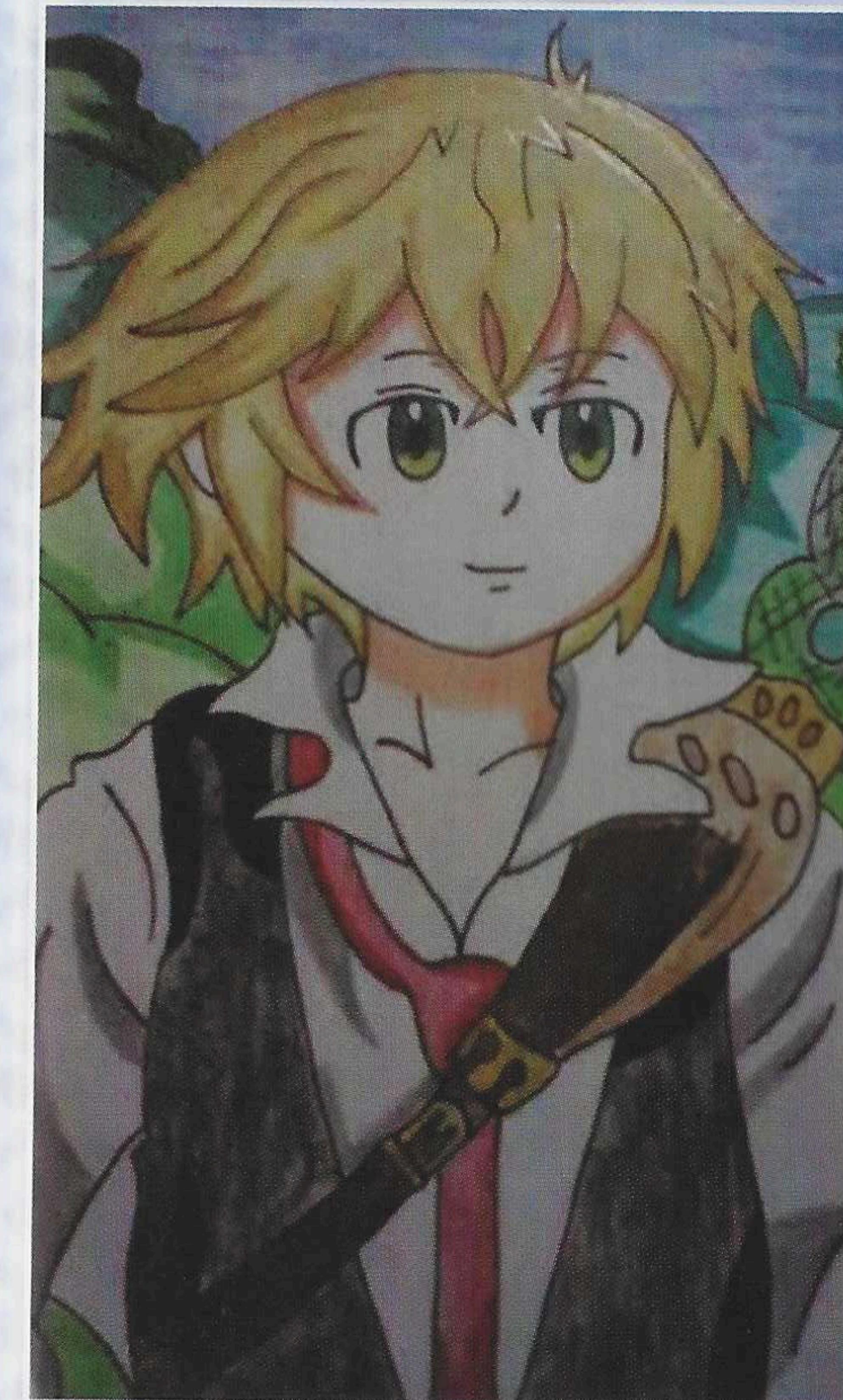
Chelsea Biclar

Hi, Otaku Asia Staff. Thank you so much for this wonderful year. I didn't even notice that it's more than 3 years and a half since I had your first issue in May 2013. I hope you'll be featuring the most anticipating 2nd season anime for this 2017 like Kabaneri, Shingeki, Boku no Hero Academia and One Punch Man. Happy New Year! :)

-JayLockser



Kisha Italia



Owen Dioquino

Hello again OA staff. Pang-ilan ko nang comment to sa inyo??? lols I've just bought another issue of your mag yesterday, yung Ansatsu Kyoushitsu cover. To think that I've even requested it last February then pagkita ko meron na pala kayo! Ang awkward lang, sobra(sa part ko) tapos ngayon ko lang sya nabili. lols But I love the issue again all the same! Lalo na yung article about Unmei Nihongo Center. It got me considering na mag-alaral sa kanila ng Japanese (tho, i'm still thinking about it).

I hope sana i-review nyo din talaga yung Ansatsu Kyoushitsu Live Action! although hindi sya ka-level ng RurouKen Live Actions (in my opinion), it's still a good adaptation (& also because of Yamada Ryosuke, lols :3). Also can you feature Arashi & Hey! Say! JUMP in your Jpop artists corner. PLEEEEAAAASSSEEEE!!!!!! But if you already featured those that I've requested like the last time, can you please tell me the issue/s where they're in so that i can look for them?

Thanks again for another great issue OA staff. i'm looking forward on buying another issue again next week. :D

-Riza Mendoza



Zack

Owen Dioquino



Jung Ha Wook



Kisha Italia

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout? Fanart to showoff? Otaku Asia would love to hear from you!

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An advertisement for Sumafo anime-inspired custom phone cases. The top half features the Sumafo logo with a heart-shaped phone icon and the text "sumaf0" in large white letters, followed by "ANIME-INSPIRED CUSTOM CASES" and social media links: "FACEBOOK.COM/SSUMAFO", "INSTAGRAM.COM/SUMAFO", and "#SUMAFOCASES". The bottom half shows a hand holding a black phone case with a dragon scale pattern, next to a glass jar of orange liquid and other phone cases in various designs like blue scales and white stars. A red banner at the bottom right reads "USE THE CODE FOR FREE SHIPPING*" and "OTAKUASIA".

sumaf0

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Several companies worldwide are now pouring their resources into developing artificial intelligence programs capable of providing domestic assistance and home security. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, for example, started developing "JARVIS"—a self-learning AI that also doubles as an impeccable assistant. Some are creating android prototypes with AI software installed. If that's not enough to get you interested in learning about how far human technology has advanced lately, then say hello to Azuma Hikari!

Azuma Hikari is a female AI assistant that resides in a portable machine called the "Gatebox" and it's developed by Vinclu Inc. She functions as an all-around helper who can connect to every device in your house and interact with her owner on a personal level thanks to the Gatebox's built-in facial and voice recognition feature. Aside from voice commands, it is also possible to interact with Azuma through the owner's smartphone. For those who want to customize or ask Azuma to sing and dance, the machine can be plugged into the computer by using an HDMI cable.

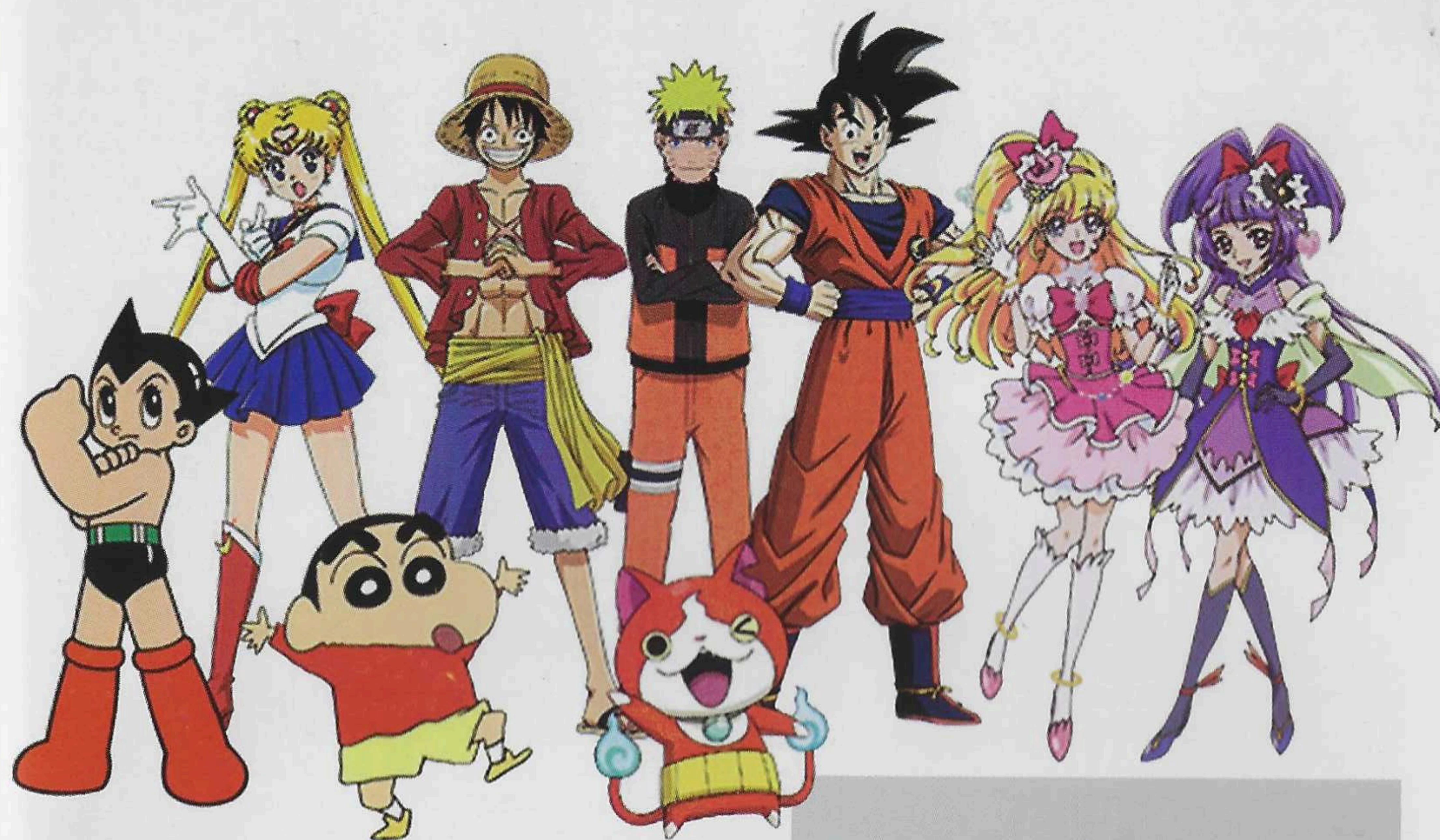


It's like a dream-come-true for guys who are either unpopular with women or have abandoned their hopes of getting a girlfriend because Azuma will be there for you when no one else was. However, the Gatebox is much more expensive than the PlayStation 4 + PlayStation VR combined at the moment, so you better start earning some cash for your future Gatebox waifu!

If you're interested in seeing Gatebox's development updates, be sure to follow their facebook and twitter page.

facebook.com/gatebox
twitter.com/gatebox

SAY HELLO TO AZUMA HIKARI



The Official 2020 Tokyo Olympics Anime Merchandise Revealed

They haven't finished making the mascot character for 2020 Tokyo but the chosen anime ambassadors have already been revealed last year. And now, their official merchandise is out!

From left to right, they are Astro Boy, Sailor Moon, Shin-chan, Luffy (One Piece), Naruto, Jibanyan (Yōkai Watch), Goku (Dragon Ball Super), Cure Miracle and Cure Magical (Maho Girls Precure!).

The Japanese Olympic Committee and Japanese Paralympic Committee's official stores are already carrying several merchandise featuring the chosen characters. From T-shirts, cap, keychain, face towel, lunch bag, water bottle and two-level lunch box.

Since anime in itself is for children, we think that the merchandise is also going for the same market with these items.

If you'd like to purchase the items, their official website is toko2020shop.jp

Personally, we love the design of the face towel and lunch bag.



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学びます

The last lesson :NE ね and YO よ and other specialized greetings and sendings from Otaku Asia issue 37.

Now we will teach some manga SFX sounds. If you have noticed, we have been using some of them on our O-kun Tales (page 96). We will loosely translate some of them now. It's fun.

Crying

Pretty much how we started using Japanese manga SFX because it would better express the feelings with sound than just "sob" and "huhu"

sobbing
ふえええーん
fueee-n

waah
うええ
uee

loud cry/ wailing
booh hoo
わーんわーん
wa-n wa-n

nooooooooo
kyaaa
いやああ
iyaaa

Hungry

Because we really think there should be more comics about being hungry. It's always relatable

grooowwwll
ぐうー
guu-

gurgle gurgle
ぐうきゅるる
guukyururu

Love
Because Japan has SFX for a feeling and that is beautiful. So let's use

aww so cute
tee hee
ひゅーひゅー
hyu- hyu-

heart thump
どきつ
doki

doki can be used in both love and scary situations. Basically, it's just a heart thump and can be used whenever a dramatic heart thump is required.

Other

Ok time for random effects!!

stare
じー
ji-

In many anime, this is said. You will actually hear the character say "jiiii" and this has become a habit for me too

boooiiing
ぱりりりん
puriririn

SFX for something bouncy... LIKE A PUDDING. Don't be lewd.

slip
ずそー
zuso-

SFX for someone who trips/ slips because clumsy characters are cute

hmph
むー
mu-

Blow up your cheeks and try to say the "mu". It's this.

source: thejadednetwork.com/sfx

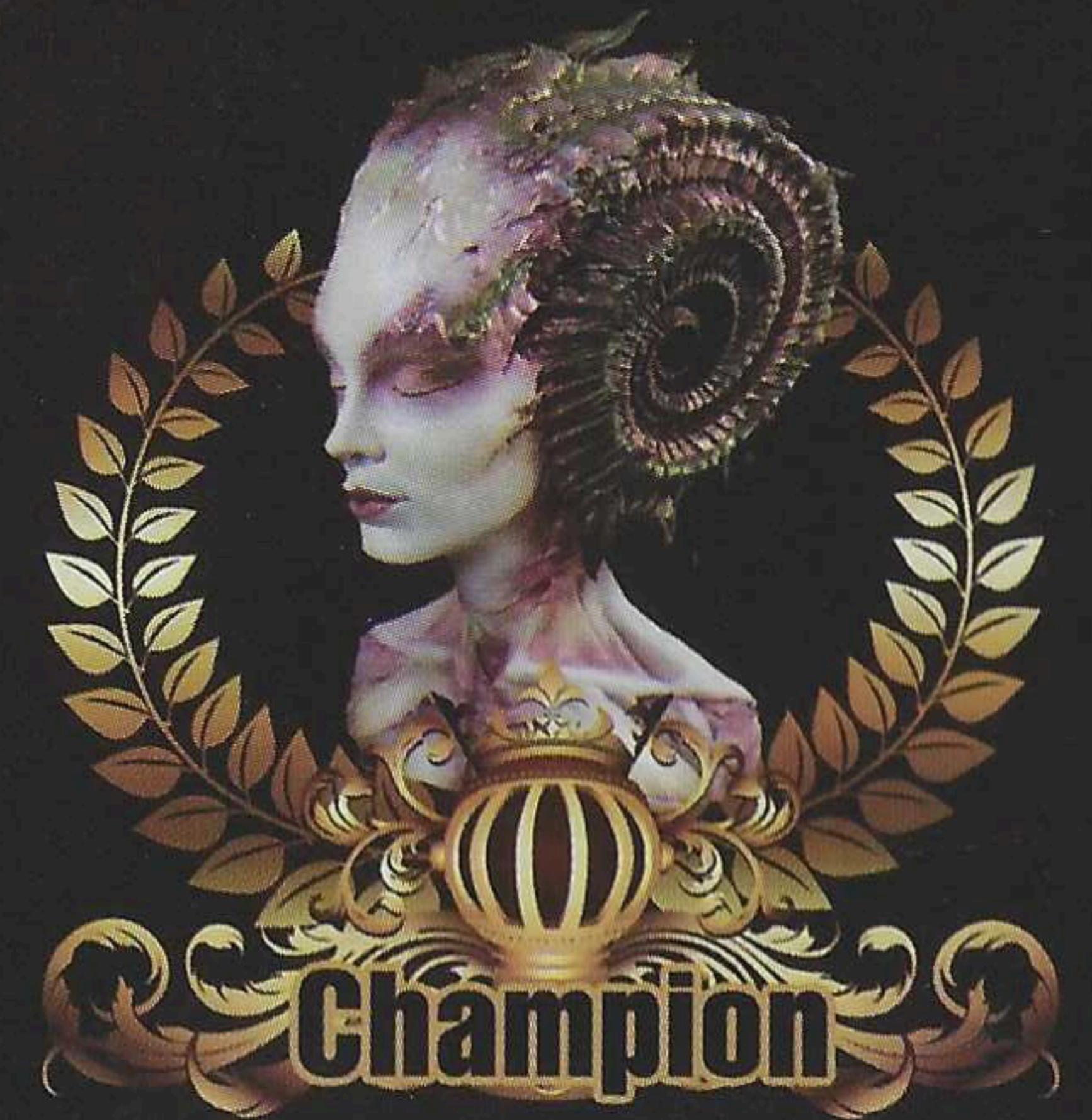
GK
CONTEST 2016

Champions are Born



E2046

Figure



Serafin Germany



1st Runner Up
tomcat

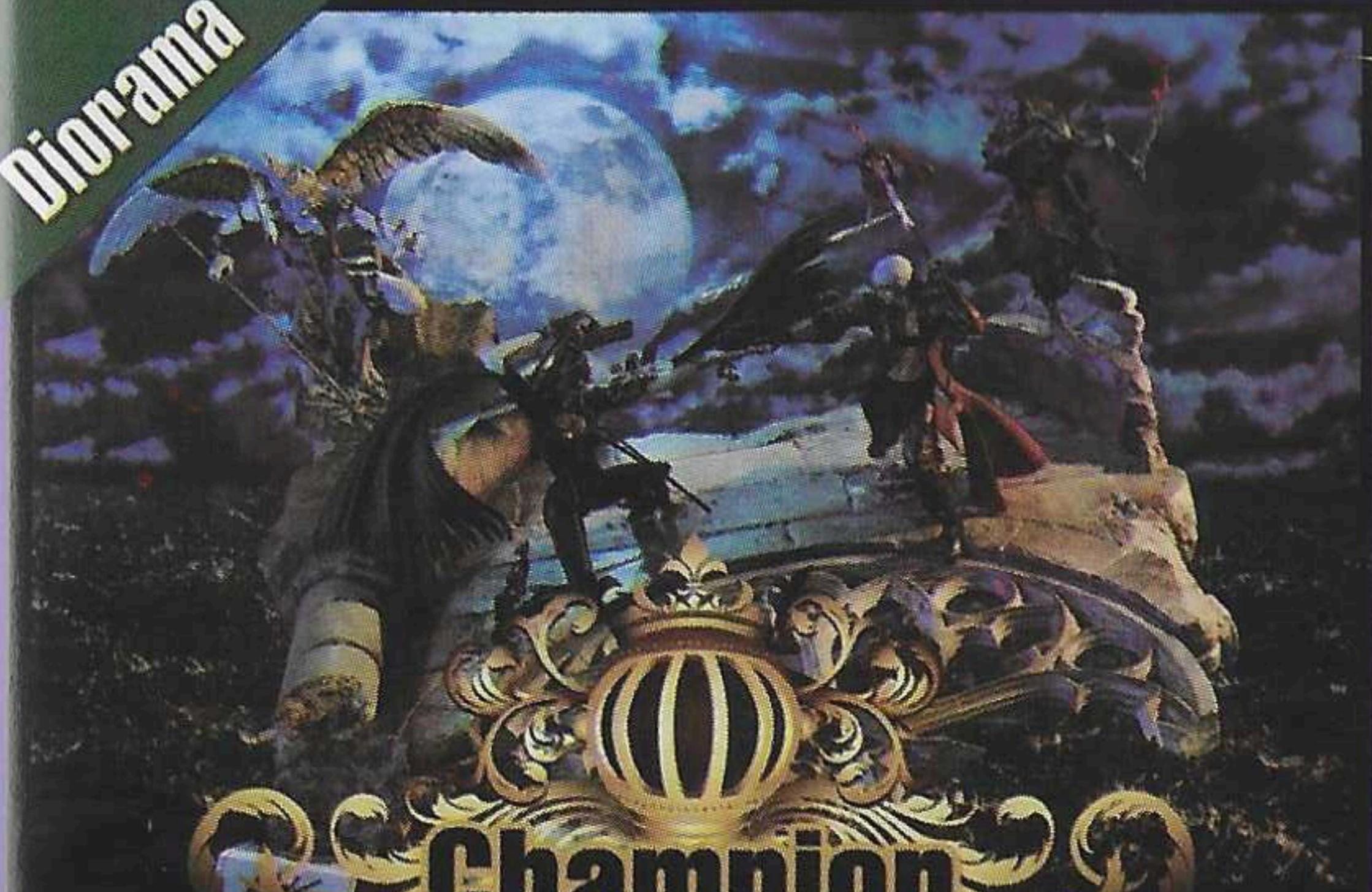
Germany



2nd Runner Up
dianahase

Germany

Diorama



Champion
freakstyle Russian Federation

Robot

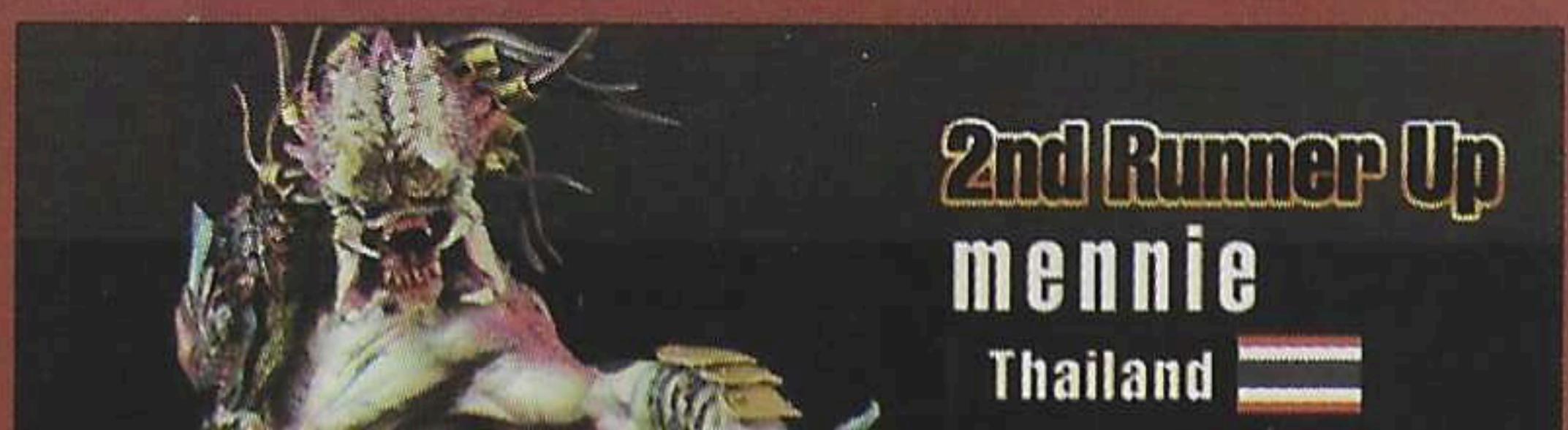


蔚蓝 China



1st Runner Up
tomcat

Germany



2nd Runner Up
mennie

Thailand



1st Runner Up salva spain

Spain



2nd Runner Up Ksana Russian Federation

Russia



JUST JAPAN

by Ann

Looking for an upgrade to your wardrobe? Japanese souvenir jackets can help you bring out your A-game with a style that goes from classic to trendy and hip!



koi x sakura x hokusai souvenir jacket design

Wear Something Cool Inside Out

These jackets, also called Sukajan, have been an ever-present style in the world of fashion but became a hot item in 2016. That doesn't mean it's something to be left behind because these jackets offer a unique statement with its artwork, material, and functions. While there are tons of variations, Sukajan is mainly characterized by the icon/s embroidered on it. Some of the most popular ones include animals that can be seen most often in Japanese paintings such as the tiger, the koi fish, and the dragon with some elements of fire, flower, or water. Each motif is carefully highlighted by vibrant colors. These images would resemble a tattoo you'd see at the back of a yakuza member because just like that, the Sukajan brings out the fierce and cool in its wearer.

Sukajan's material can range from the usual cotton and rayon combination to the vintage satin and silk. Aside from style, Sukajan is an eye candy for celebrities (including Mick Jagger, Ryan Gosling, Pharrell Williams, Katy Perry, and Kiko Mizuhara) and streetwearers because they are easy to wear and pair with different outfits and most of them are reversible. Talk about stylish, comfortable, and cool two ways in one!

At first, Sukajan is popularly referred to as bomber jacket because the American soldiers had these jackets made after the war in Japan to symbolize their rebellion, and of course, to take them home as souvenirs. Because of the loud statement it makes about defiance, these jackets also catered to the style of gangs as delinquents. However, these connotations don't take away other creative minds using the concept to project ironic defiance and conformity to trends. Some stores even sell Sukajan with kawaii style to give it a touch of cuteness.

Spruce up your look with bold designs and radically distinct message that speaks your personality out with your Sukajan!

images from
facebook.com/JapanLoverMe.Store





SOME RLY GOOD BREAD

"A careful approach to baking rains freshness on every creation, bringing ancient recipes to the contemporary palate. It's the kind of dedication that delights the tastebuds and fills the soul. First it comes from the heart, then it goes onto your tray. Only at KUMORI."

-Kumori Philippines

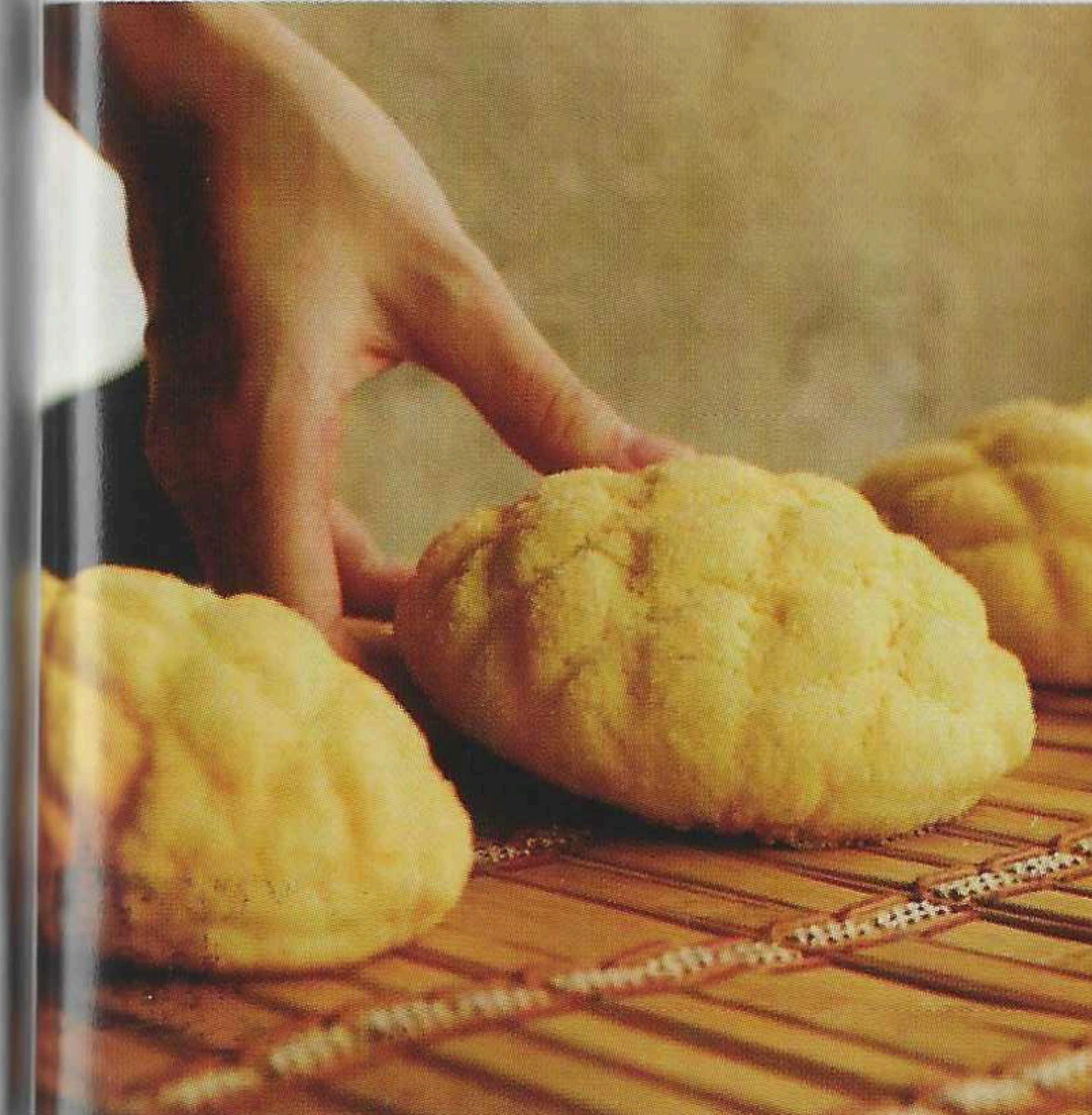
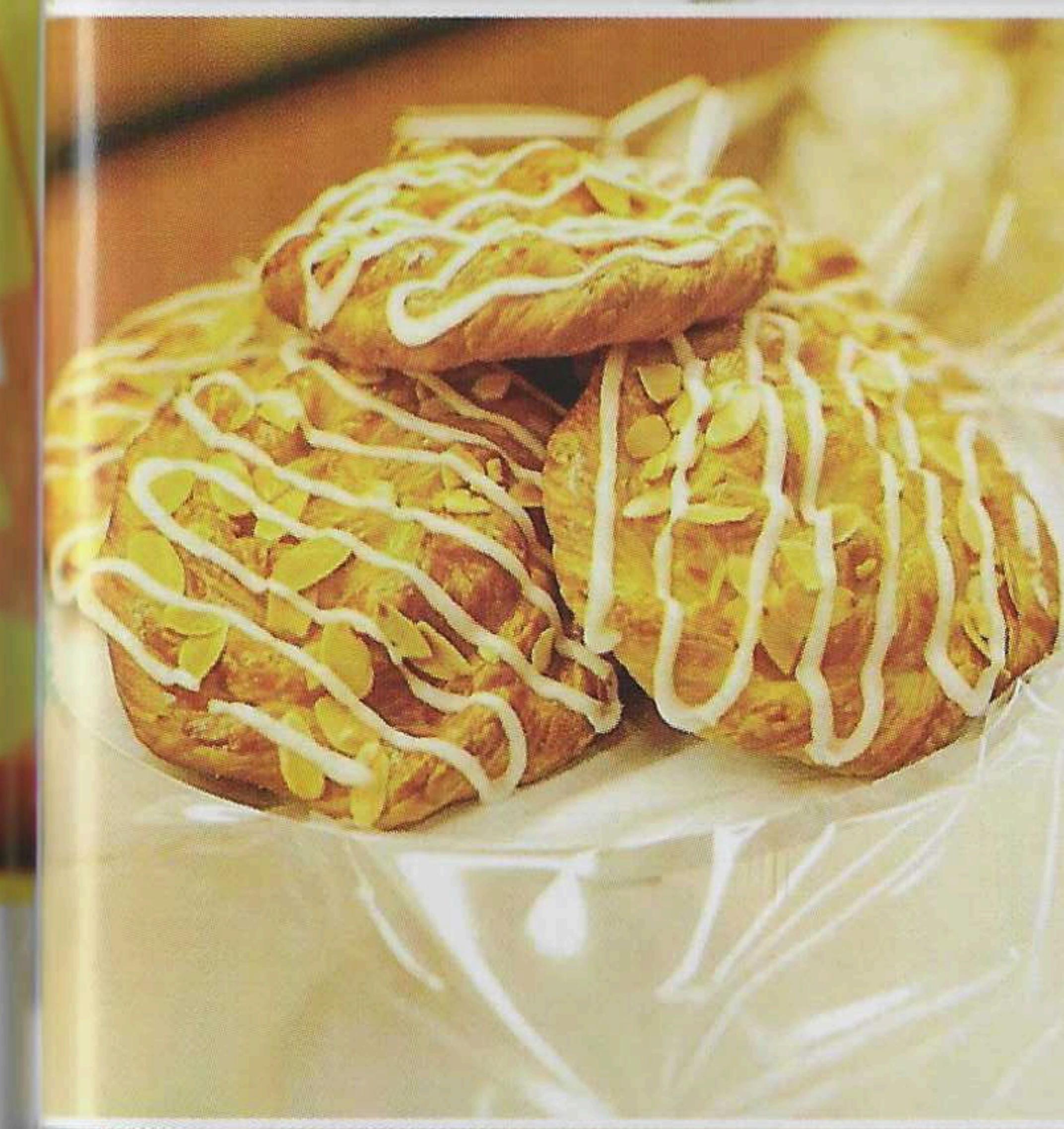
(on the right:
half-baked
Japanese style
cheesecake
with premium
red chocolate
for 2017
Valentines)



Japanese desserts certainly has a space in the hearts of Filipino. And now, Otaku Asia is here again to introduce one of the many bakeries which lets us experience a taste of Japan here in the Philippines!

Kumori, a Nagoya-based bakery, is known for their delicious Hanjuku Cheese, a half baked Japanese style cheesecake with a rich moist cream cheese center. This bestseller comes in three different flavors: original, chocolate and matcha. You'd never have enough of it!

They have a lot of different varieties of Japanese treats you could delve in. Their Signature Cheese Tarts are a perfect combination of fluffy cheese filling and firm crust. The Tohoyashi pudding with its original, green tea, chocolate and mango flavors are also popular among the regulars. Kumori also offers flavored buns, croissants, loaves and also cheesecakes. There are a whole lot of must-try delicacies that you can try everyday with your family.



Kumori Japanese Bakery opened its doors to the Filipino market on February 2015 at the Lower Ground Floor of Landmark Makati, followed by their SM Makati stall at ground floor on May 2015. Then on December 2015, Kumori's first ever full store cafe opened at the ground floor of SM North EDSA (The Block). Shortly after on September 2016, they opened their second full store cafe at the ground floor phase 2 of U.P. Town Center.

Why did they name the shop Kumori?

KUMORI means cloudy in Japanese, but instead of grey and gloom, it represents all the sunshine and positivity that comes after the rain. Likewise, they said that what they create at KUMORI brings calm and comfort through an authentic variety of Japanese breads and pastries.

Make sure to drop by to their stalls next time and taste their refreshing Japanese delicacies!

images from facebook.com/kumoriph



OTAKUGOODIES by: Yani

YURI!!!
YURI ON ICE

INSPIRED
HOODIES BY:

PERRY
in
DISGUISE
LIVE OUT YOUR FANTASY



YOI fandom won't be dying anytime soon since there will be a season 2 plus Perry-in-Disguise has new items that we would surely love and will give more hype to our fandom; Yuri on Ice inspired hoodies available for everyone. For the first set, they will be having the jackets of our favorite trio: Victor Nikiforov, Yuri Katsuki and Yuri Plisetsky! You can avail these jackets for as low as P1200! Aside from the accuracy of the designs, the jackets were made of high quality cotton polyester fabrics.



These jackets were available for preorder. For those interested in purchasing these jackets, visit their facebook page:

www.facebook.com/clothing.PID

In just 2-3 weeks, the jackets you purchased will be sent to your doorstep. If you have inquiries, feel free to message them also on their facebook page and they will be glad to assist you. Perry-in-Disguise is also available during conventions. Stay tuned for announcements where they will be participating at.



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SINNICH



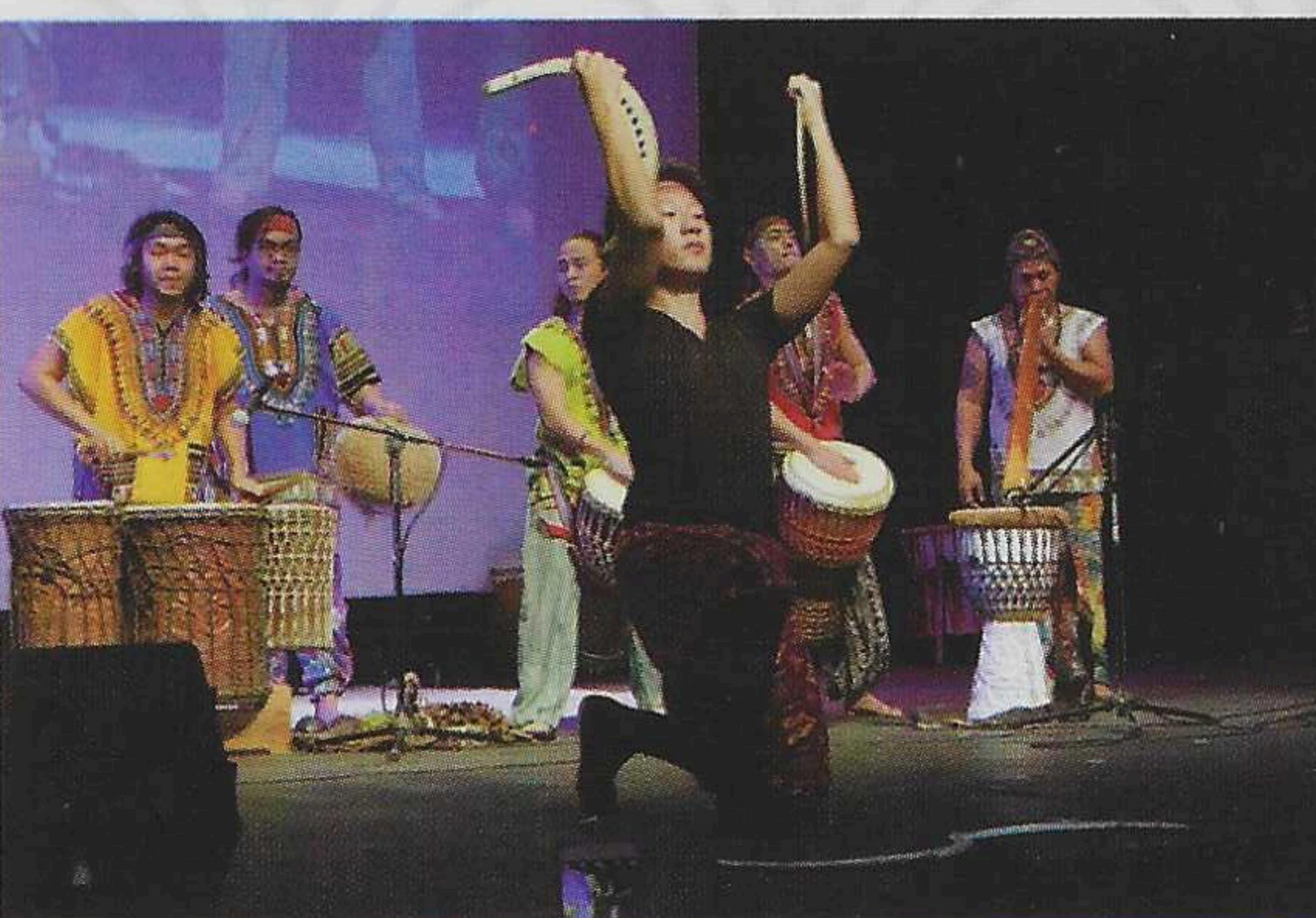
PAGBABALIK

by kanddy

On the evening of a very tiring day, I went to relax in Makati. Being the Japanophile that I am, I can only relax with a performance of Japanese taiko drums or *wadaiko* (和太鼓). Last week, TIU Theater announced a free performance by Utsuwa.

The group, Utsuwa, is a *wadaiko* group formed in May 2015. They are a group of five graduates from Tama Art University in Tokyo: Kojiro, Marie Ikura, Ayumi Tsuji, Tomoko Fukushima and Hazuki Shinkai. They may be from different majors they got together to play taiko and create their own musical expression. Going beyond the boundaries of traditional taiko play, they have created their own style utilizing each members strengths.

The night started with a Damong Ligaw performance by Adinkra Lumads Djembe Community who played lively African music mixed with their style. They even had the audience singing and clapping to the music. It was a beautiful display of percussion instruments. Ashe! Ashe!



Utsuwa with Akira Hoshino performing *Hidamari Yurete*

The program mentioned thirteen songs for the night, Shamisen player, Yoshiro Watabe and Live Painting by Atsuko Yamagata and Utsuwa's Marie Ikura.

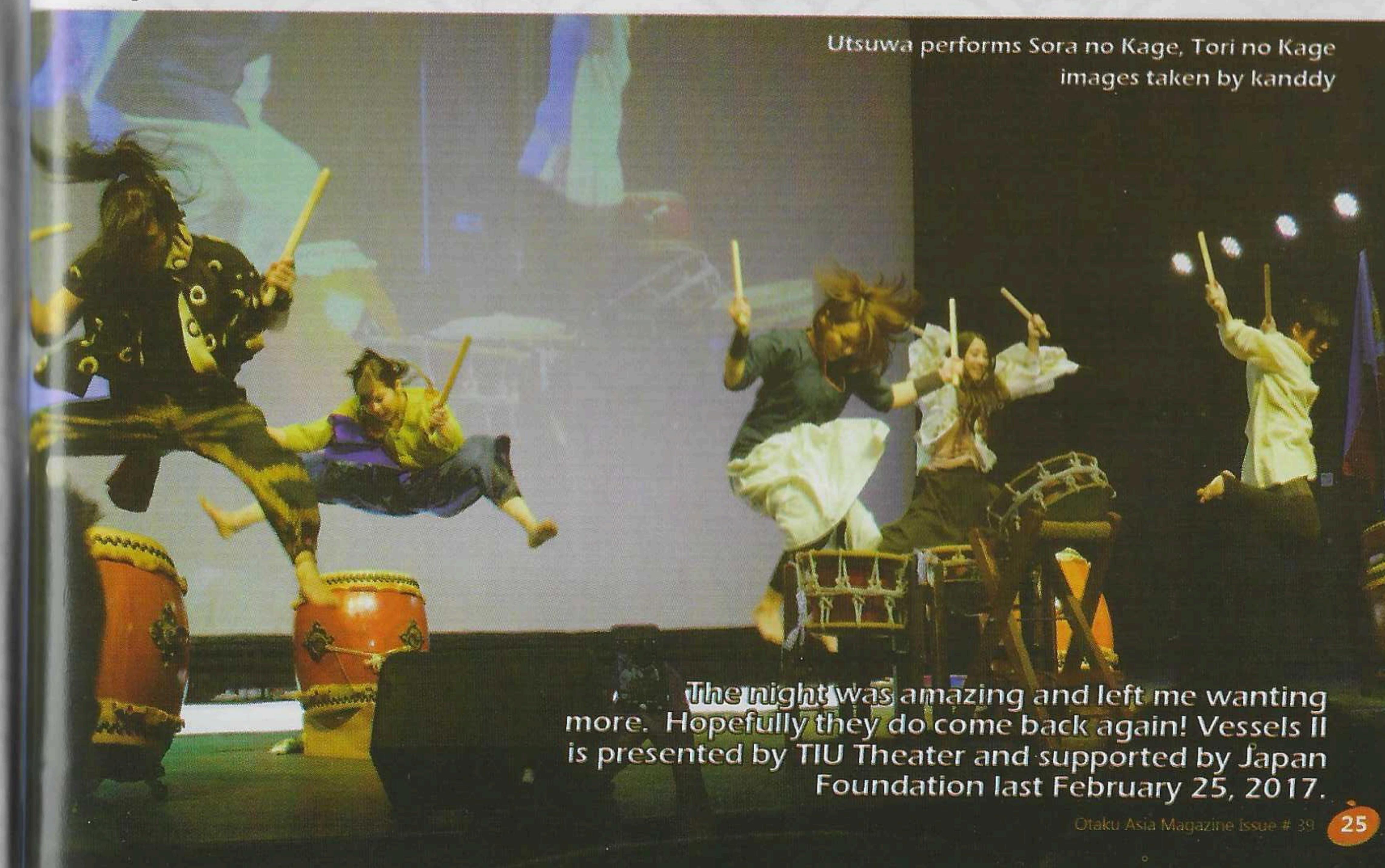
The lights dimmed and the curtain opened to eight drums: five of them were *chū-daiko* and three *shime-daiko*. No words needed, they performed their first song, *Ame Sanzameki* where the drums will express rain drops. I got reminded of Otaku Asia's Yani who is actually fan of taiko but could not come to the event that night.

On the group's third song, they performed an original composition by their teacher, Akira Hoshino who was in the audience, entitled *Utsu-wa*. Yes, the group's name *utsuwa* means vessel (the title of the event) but *utsu*-could also mean 'shooting' and *wa*- is 'harmony'. In the next songs, Akira-sensei came up the stage to perform with them!

The live painting was on going behind the drums and projected on the screen at the back. Sadly, I wasn't able to finish the event but I got to stay for the shamisen performance by Yoshiro Watabe.



Yoshiro Watabe performs *Jongara-Bushi*



Utsuwa performs *Sora no Kage, Tori no Kage*
images taken by kanddy

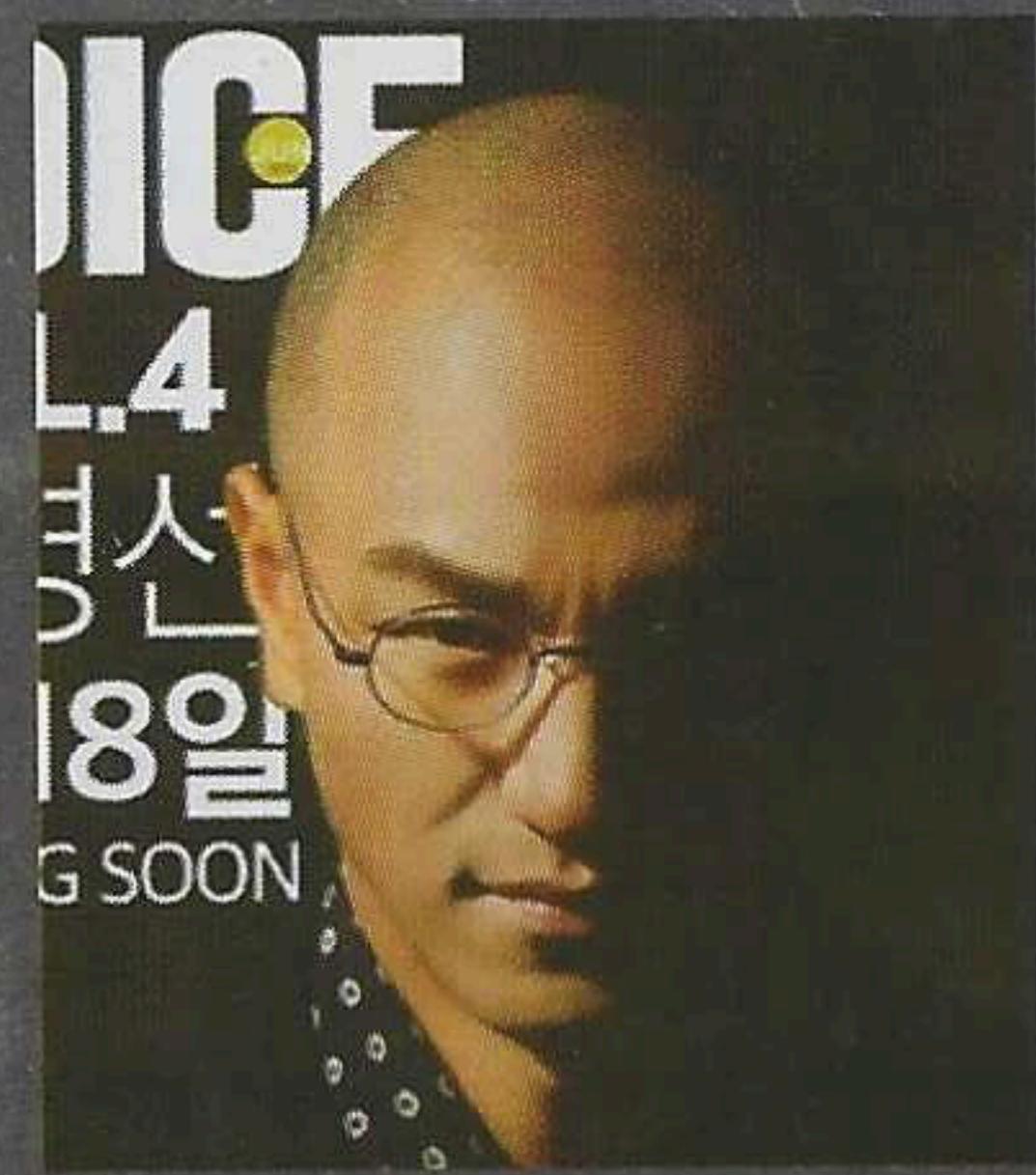
The night was amazing and left me wanting more. Hopefully they do come back again! Vessels II is presented by TIU Theater and supported by Japan Foundation last February 25, 2017.



SEIYUU'S MIC

VOICES BEHIND OUR FAV. CHARACTERS IN MYSTIC MESSENGER

YEONG SEON KIM

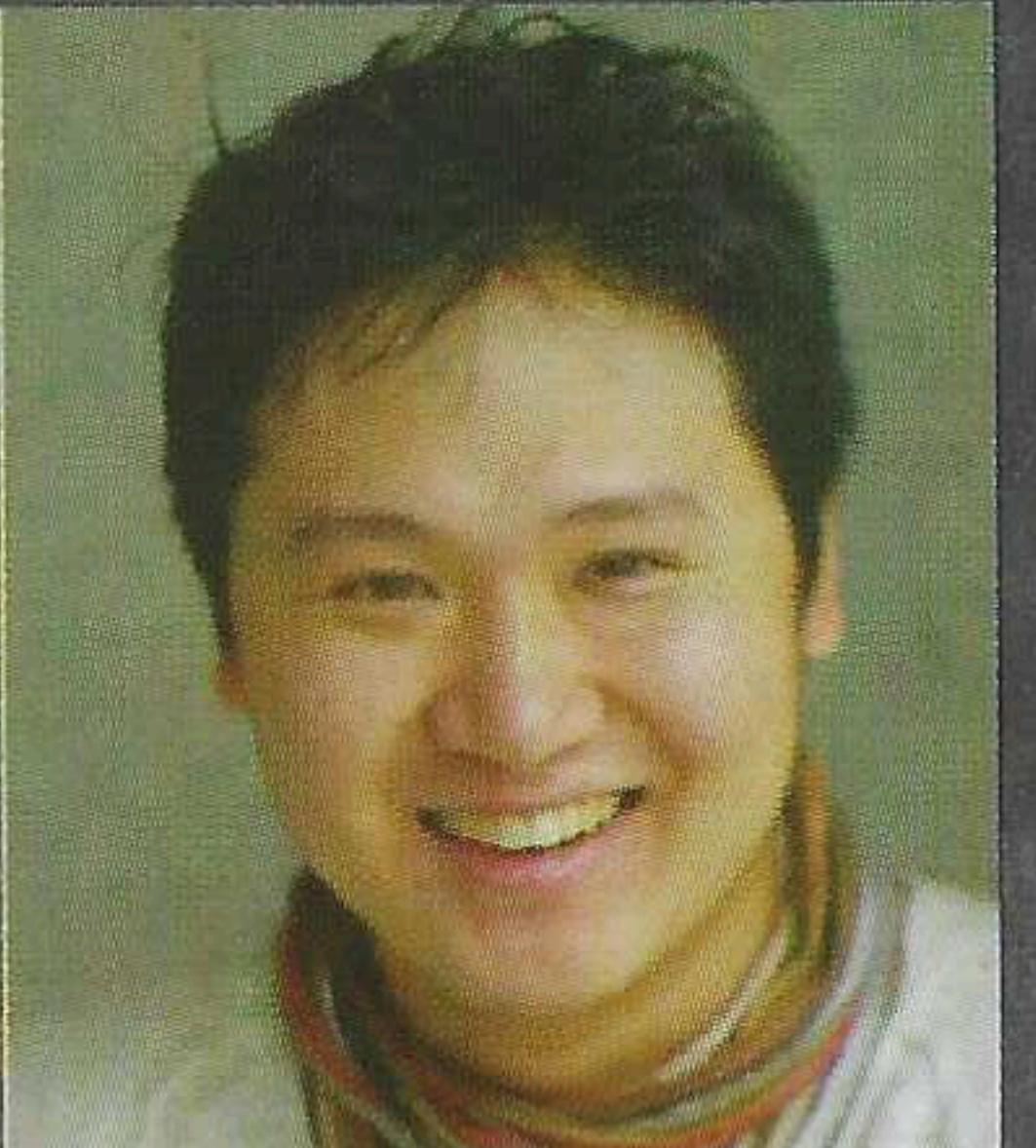


Gender: Male
Birthdate: December 17, 1968

Yeong Seon Kim is the voice actor of 707/Luciel Choi. Among the voice actors of Mystic Messenger, he has the longest script. He instantly accepted when he was called for the audition since he only have 1% battery left on his phone. He also has a twiiter account: @howlkim.



YONG WOO SHIN



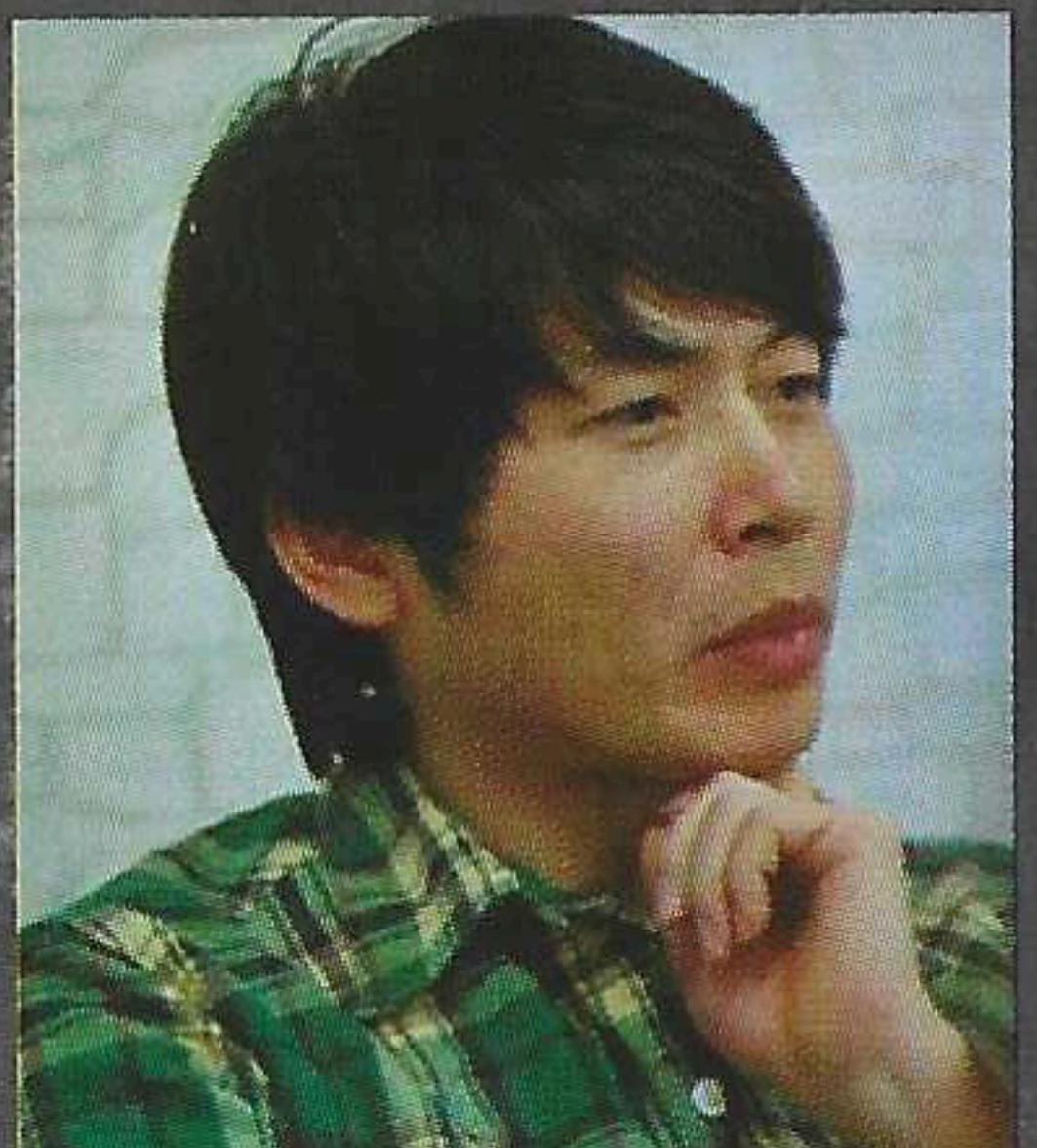
Gender: Male
Birthdate: March 19, 1976

Yong Woo Shin is the voice actor of Jumin Han. According to 707's voice actor, Youngsun Kim, Yong Woo Shin had a tough time voicing him (probably due to Jumin's voice type) that he doesn't want to do something like that again. He chose to take Jaehee's route when he played Mystic Messenger. He is also a good singer.



He has his own web radio program with Hong Bum Ki called Over the Radio, which is available on Youtube.

JANG KIM- ZEN



Gender: Male
Birthdate: June 8, 1970

Jang Kim is the voice actor of Hyun Ryu or known for his stage name as Zen. Similar with Yong Woo Shin, he also chose to play the route of Jaehee Kang. He also dubbed in Korean some of the characters of popular anime like Shiba Kaien from Bleach, and Son Gohan from Dragon Ball Z.

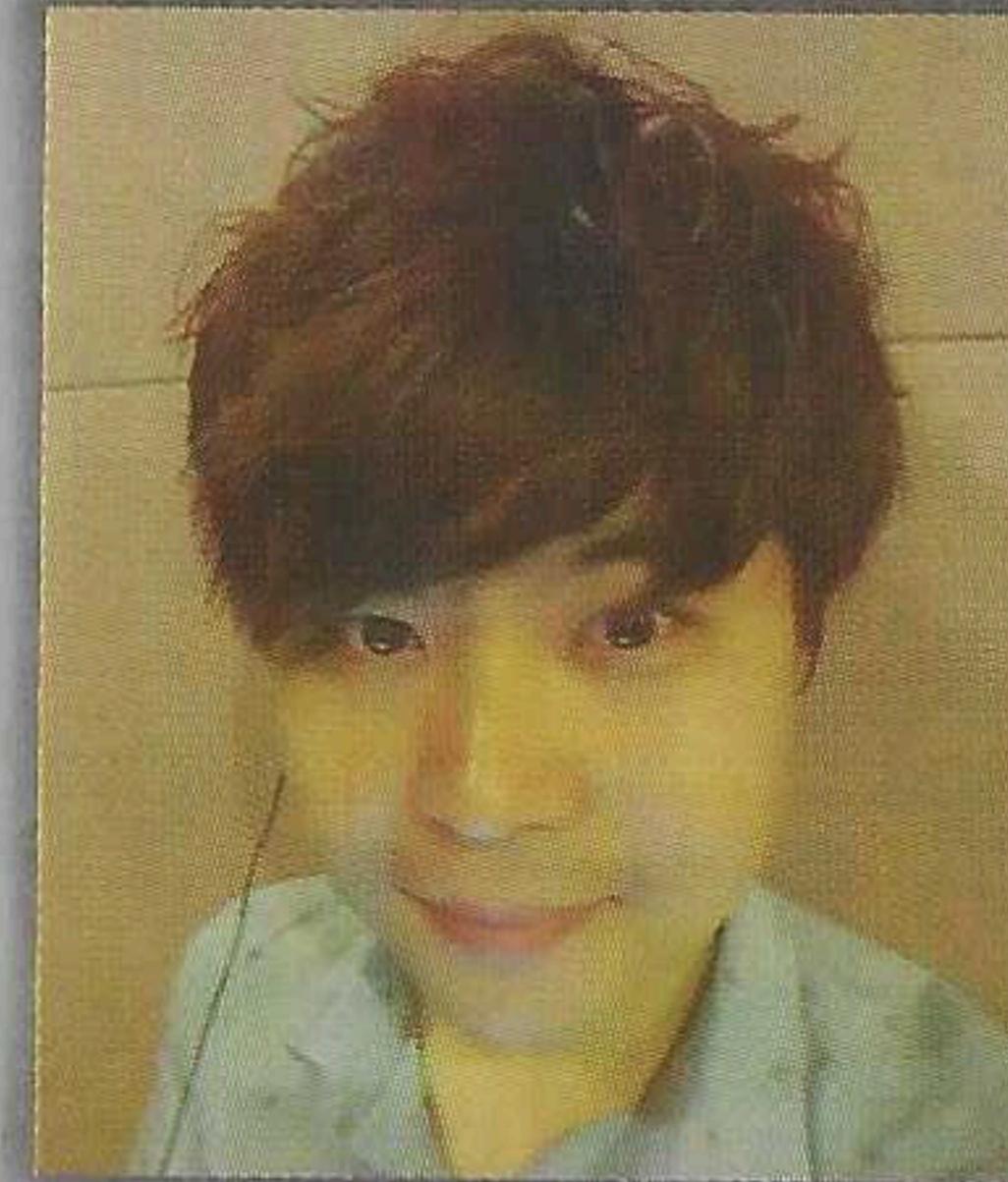


by Yani

SHIM GYUHYUK

Gender: Male
Birthdate: February 9, 1982

Shim Gyuhyuk is the the voice actor of Yoosung Kim. He is also behind the voice of the Korean dub of some of well known characters like Hiro Hamada from Big Hero 6 and Dayon from Osomatsu-san. Be updated about him through his social media accounts:



Twitter: @voicist Instagram: @july_lemonade



JEONG HWA YANG



Gender: Female
Birthdate : Nov 27, 1970

Jeong Hwa Jang is the voice actress of Jaehee Kang. She was also the voice behind the Korean dubbed version of some of the characters of popular series/movies like Azula from Avatar the Last Airbender, Ayumu Kasuga from Azumanga Daioh and Saber from Fate/Stay Night.



HO SAN LEE



Gender: male
Birthdate: November 2, 1980

Ho San Lee is the voice actor of Kim Jihyun or commonly known as V. He was moved to V's story which made him cry during the scene.. He also dubbed Korean movies before. One is PADAK, which was released last 2012. and some of the popular anime series like Sanada Ryu from Kimi no Todoke and Usui Kazuyoshi from Sket Dance.

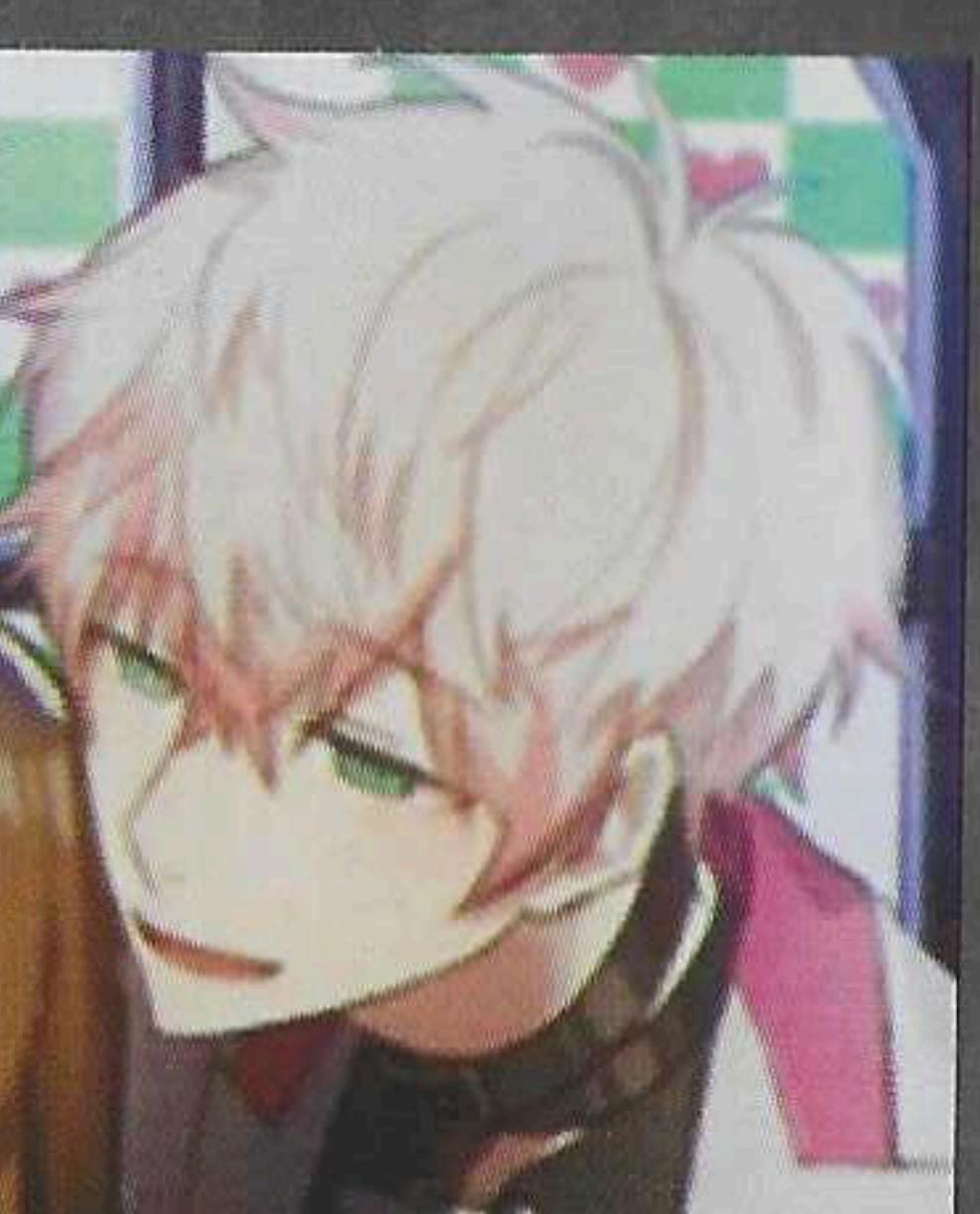


SUJIN KANG



Gender: Male
Birthdate: October 19, 1965

Sujin Kang is the voice actor of Unknown. He interpreted that Unknown does have Borderline Personality Disorder. Same with his other co-voice actors, he also chose to play the route of Jaehee Kang. He is also the voice behind the korean dubbed version of Goku from Dragon Ball Z and Inuyasha from Inuyasha.





HOOKED BOOK

by kandy



Things Japanese

Everyday Objects of Exceptional Beauty and Significance

Nicholas Bornoff photographs by Michael Freeman



TUTTLE



Art at the comfort of a Japanese Home

Almost always, when someone I know would go to Japan, they would ask me what I would want as souvenir and I would say, 'Japanese Things'.

Of course as otakus, our fascination with Japanese culture does not end with animation, gaming and toys. We want to go to Japan for the culture and to learn their daily living (if it is the same as in anime). And this of course covers their everyday objects from the past to the present (because Japanese history is hellamazing).

In *Things Japanese: Everyday Objects of Extraordinary Beauty and Significance*, author Nicholas Bornoff and photographer Michael Freeman examine over 60 traditional objects that are uniquely Japanese, deftly illustrating their beauty and significance.

- > Beautifully crafted samurai swords
- > Elegant wooden tansu chests
- > Elaborate tea ceremony implements
- > Exquisitely carved netsuke toggles
- > Fabulous silk-and-gold embroidered kimonos

Each item is described in loving detail alongside lovely full-color photographs that highlight the great artistry and craftsmanship in everyday items used by real people in traditional Japan. *Things Japanese* is the perfect book for Japanese antique collectors or anyone interested in Japanese art and the culture and history of Japan.

How the Japanese people have merged beautiful art with utile objects is their gift and what better way to spend your afternoon just appreciating?

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LOKAL'TAKU



vividbit

Hearty Dosage of Cute

by Ann

Everyday, we are so overloaded with information online and over other media that it becomes easy to forget what we really want in life. How can we not lose track of who we truly are and lose heart in what we do best?

Our featured artist for this month gave us her take on this reflection with her own experiences, which many of us would find relevant. Today, Beatrice Anne Bennett works as a junior animator for a children's book company and helps adapt these books into apps, but before she reached this page in her life, she had some struggles.

Known online as **Vividbit**, her works possess vibrant interpretations of kawaii through bookmarks, bag tags, and more. She even collaborated with **Hodge Podge** merchandise to have her charming animé and cartoon character drawings be printed on bottle caps. She occasionally sells some of her goods at conventions like **Ozine** and **Cosmania**. Because her art makes heads turn, we had a chat to know more about her and her story!



OA: First of all, why did you choose the name **Vividbit?**

V: **Vivid Bit** is the 5th episode of **Eureka Seven**. Back then, well until now, **Eureka Seven** was my favorite anime series. I was thinking of a catchy name and I really liked the episode titles so I chose the title I liked the most.



BB



Your DeviantArt account notes that you've been active since 2008, but you only started with your official Facebook page March of last year, how did you grow as an artist from when you first started posting your works online?

Back in 2008, I wasn't as confident of an artist as I am now (although honestly it still is a struggle). My DA page was made when I still had a lot of time to draw. When college rolled in, I gradually started drawing less and became less active. I also chose a course that wasn't art related because I didn't believe that I was good enough to pursue a career in art. Somewhere along the way I realized that I wasn't happy where I was and decided to shift to an Animation course.

I still wasn't confident enough but I persevered. I started doing what I love and it just snowballed from there. My friends invited me to sell with them and I slowly began to find my footing. I became more inspired to grow as an artist and to keep drawing more. After mustering up enough courage, I decided to be more active with sharing my art to others by making my page. These days I still have bouts of self doubt, but now I push through them and just keep on drawing.

What or who inspires you to become an artist?

My family members are my number one fans. They always believed in me even when I didn't. They are also my biggest critics and constantly point out areas where I can improve. I'm also inspired by my friends. They are amazing artists and they make me strive to be a better artist.

Is there an artist that has a strong influence on your art style?

I'm mainly influenced by Tokidoki, Sanrio, and Tomoko Fujinoki. I love Sanrio's classic, cute, and iconic characters. Tokidoki also has cute unique characters, but I love how he creates vibrant and fun scenes, I also really love how Tomoko Fujinoki does her line work.

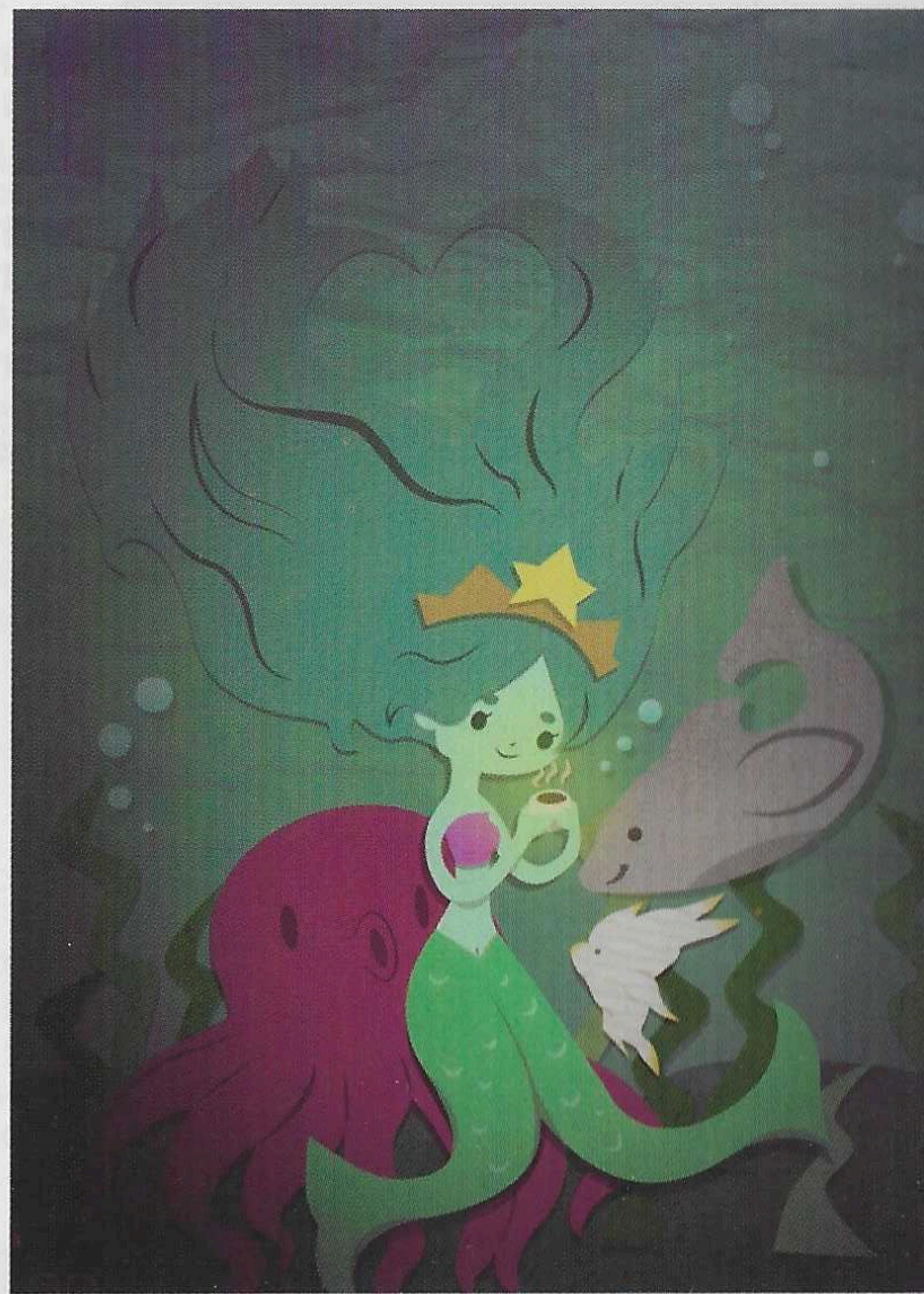
You mentioned in your Facebook page that visitors can expect it to have "Loads of cute" so what do you

Cute for me is basically anything that can make you go "aww" and smile. I also think that cute things should make you laugh. Anything that is fun and vibrant.

What is your message to aspiring artists who are encouraged by you and your work?

First of all, believe in yourself. If you can't, believe in your friends who believe in you. You'll be surprised when you start being a little more confident with what you do. Lastly, love what you do and do what you love. Don't keep being critical of your art. Just enjoy and have fun with what you do.

Coming from someone who has been there and done that, Vividbit certainly knows what she's talking about when she says not to give up on ourselves. We, on the other hand, definitely cannot stop looking with starry eyes at her cute stuff! Catch more of her on her FB Page (@vividbit21) or Instagram (@vivid.bit)!

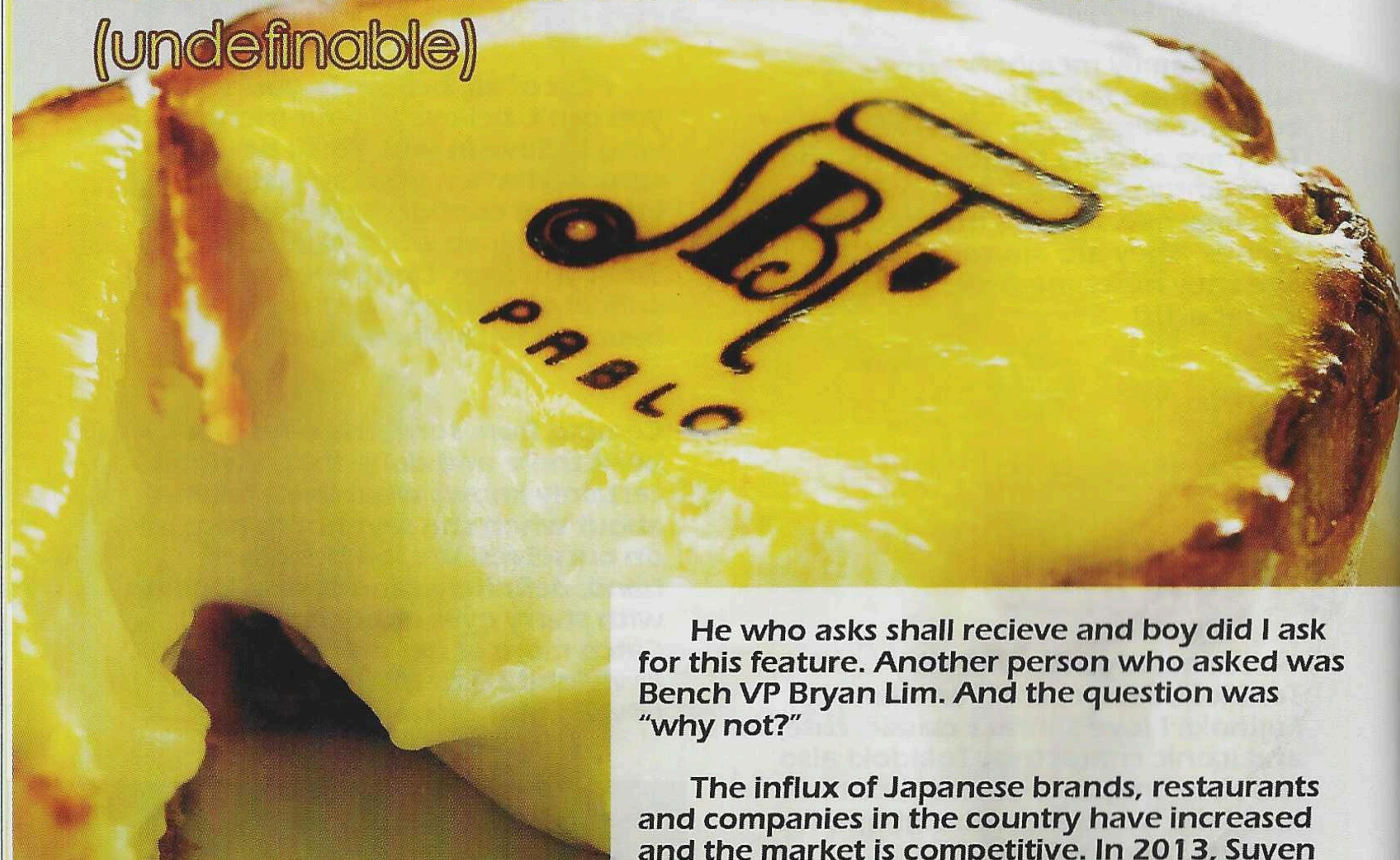




BENTO BOX

by kanddy

MMMMMMmmmm~
(undefinable)



He who asks shall receive and boy did I ask for this feature. Another person who asked was Bench VP Bryan Lim. And the question was "why not?"

The influx of Japanese brands, restaurants and companies in the country have increased and the market is competitive. In 2013, Suyen Corporation started bringing in big names in food industry starting with Paul Boulangerie and St. Marc Café. One of the more familiar and affordable (to us otaku) is Maisen, a tonkatsu specialty franchise from Tokyo, Marugame Seimen Udon, a self-service dining styled Udon & Tempura Japanese resto and most recently, Pablo.

The Osaka-based cake shop is known for its fluffy cheese tarts. The tart is actually 15-cm in diameter. When we had one, it was basically a cake. Other cheese tarts already available in the country is nowhere near the size and gooeyness. The cheese melted on our spoons!

They opened their first branch in Robinsons Place Manila and was welcomed with a promo of FREE Freshly Baked Cheese Tart for the first 100 Customers. It was swamped. Even after the first hundred had been served, the line stayed long!! This is actually normal for Japanese shops (see OA issue 37 for an article about this cultural custom).

When we asked Masamitsu Sakimoto, founder of Pablo what he thinks of the Filipino taste in sweet, he "finds it very dense, strong and sweet. Which is why I believe that the Filipinos would prefer the Premium cheesetart." Which is actually a no-nonesense product.

For the Premium Cheesetart, the glaze topping is torched to create a crust of charred sugar. This dessert reminds us of crème brûlée with two kinds of cream cheese. We agree, this is the Filipino taste without sacrificing the mildness of the Japanese taste of the original Pablo.



Born on March 1980 in Osaka city in Japan, Masamitsu Sakimoto began working and learning about business in his father's company at the age of 18. In 2011, he started PABLO, the Freshly Baked Cheese Tart Specialty Store, with its signature product of cheese-tarts with 2 different baking conditions, just like cooking steak: rare & medium.

Product development is based on the concept of *odorokashi*, a Japanese play on words which means desserts with an element of surprise. The cheese tarts, with its unique textures, sparked attention among consumers and the media. PABLO soon gained reputation as one of the most popular dessert stores in Osaka, and built up a significant presence in the industry.





We were honored to celebrate with the founder the opening of Pablo Mini in Bonifacio High Street, BGC. PABLO Mini Cheese Tart are the smaller, bite-sized version. A creamy cheese tart wrapped with a crispy crust, baked to golden-brown perfection. The top part is very silky compared to the gooey Freshly Baked Cheese Tart and the caramel shell of the premium.

While cheese lovers drool over these, they also have flavors for the chocoholics and matcha-lovers.

The Pablo Mini Choco has a rich taste of soft, velvety chocolate as it melts in your mouth. The Pablo Mini Matcha was officially introduced the same day of the grand opening and it is a creamy cheese tart infused with rich match aroma, baked to a perfect texture purely for your indulgence.

While not many like the matcha taste, the perfect combination of the bittersweet taste of matcha and flavorful cream cheese fills your mouth every bite!



Since we had the chance, we asked Sakimoto-san more questions:

OA: How will you eat a Freshly Baked Cheese Tart and with who will you have it with?

I will eat it at room temperature, as is. But it's also good if I put it in the refrigerator first to cool it then eat it with Pablo coffee. As for who, I will most often eat it with my staff in Pablo as well as my family.

OA: What would you bring as omiyage from the Philippines to Japan?

I don't have a particular food but I'd bring a Bench t-shirt as souvenir.

OA: What would be your preferred Pablo Frute?

Personally, I like the matcha.

OA: Is there a specific taste that you dislike?

The food that I have difficulty with in my case is the durian. Its just that from Malaysia, there has been some request for me to create a durian cheesecake so at the moment, I'm really doing my best to create that cheesecake.

OA: Thank you for your hard work! As my last question, is there an anime you last watched or enjoyed?

*Basically I don't watch anime a lot but there is a movie from Toho Animation called *Kimi no Nawa*. It's become very famous in Asia. That one I was able to watch on the plane.*

Every Pablo Mini can be stored in room temperature up to 6 hours. If you want to save your Pablo for later, keep these refrigerated after that for a maximum of 2 days.

One box is good for six minis of any flavor you choose from the shop. Rest assured, they will offer you fresh tarts baked on the day.



To address Pinoy otaku to try PABLO, he says this,

Of course Pablo has this deliciousness we are famous for as well as a very Japanese type of service. So they will experience the Pablo service and the cute uniforms worn by the Pablo staff. Those are the things I'd like them to enjoy.

I've gotten feedback, not just from the Philippines but from the South East Asian operations that our regular tart is not sweet enough. So apart from the regular cheesetart that Pablo has, we will be coming up with a PABLO RICH TART. So that is something we'd like you to follow.

Other than the first limited edition flavor in the PH, which is the Pablo's Roasted Marshmallow Chocolate Cheese Tart, we can look forward to the Rich Tart they are promising to make sweeter and to our taste.

We admire Sakimoto-san's willingness to adapt to his market and explore possibilities. It will be what will make Pablo special than other specialty stores. Good luck with the durian flavor.



ART OF OTAKU

by Xander

THE MAKING OF OCHIBI-SAMA FROM O-KUN FIESTA 2 SPECIAL!



Hello, good day Otafans! In this issue, I'll tell you the walkthrough I made for Ochibi-sama O-kun Fiesta 2 Special Edition! So let's get started!

The very first step I did is make a simple concept drawing for her design.



After finalizing the Design, I sketched her kneeling while holding a rounded fan (Kandy wants it) and I added a pouch on her right hand.

For the Lineart, I found that the right sleeve is kinda shorter, so I fixed it and make it longer.



Base colors. I used airbrush on her kimono to achieve a gradient effect. For the shading, be mindful for your light source! That's very important part when coloring.



For coloring her hair, I always made the rear hair part to be always lighter, so it won't look plain.



Adding the shadows on the kimono. And I repeat, the light source is really important here, so you know which parts have deep shadows.

PS. Make the layer into Multiply



Patterns, add the sakura patterns, in different shade of pink and purple. The reason why the Shadow Layer is multiply is to make it transparent, not really transparent literally, but the shade effect will automatically visible on pattern. Make sure the layer for Patterns are below the Shade Layer.

And We're DONE!



SINNICH

MODERN CULTURE JAPAN

by kanddy

Early February, Yuchenco Museum and Japan Foundation, Manila with thanks to the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan had Dr. Naoko Tosa, Japanese media artist and her exhibition, Digital Dimensions featuring video art projections.

While we were not able to attend the exhibit and artist talk, the museum with Global Initiatives Inc. invited exhibitors for the event:

- Hareta JAPAN
- Denim Closet Asia
- KOYUDO
- J-Style PH
- Jalan Japan

This is not actually the first time that Japanese brands have come to sell their wares. Global Initiatives Managing Director, Yutaka Kitade explains that *"this is part of their government's Cool Japan strategy that started years ago"*. Together with ABS-CBN, they have promoted Japanese tourism by sending Kris Aquino and lately, Ann Curtis to tour their country. They have also held small events like this to look for Philippine distributors of Japanese products not already available in the Philippines.

One such example is Rossanna Tan of Make Up Talk PH who was introduced to the brand, Koyudo last year. Tan has since put up an online shop, Koyudo Philippines on Facebook.

As you enter Yuchenco Museum, you will be greeted by mannequins wearing denim. But not just any denim, these are from Kurashiki where Chanel, Armani and other luxe clothing brands get their raw materials. The city has a hemp farm and rest assured, the denim is of high quality. Good news is that they ship here to the Philippines!



The small bazaar also had fruits! From Okayama, Hareta brand sweets *"are made from carefully selected ingredients grown in certain areas so that they can deliver you special smiles for your precious moments with your loved ones"*. President Yoshihiro Yamaguchi explains to us that they are very particular with their suppliers or farms that follow the most rigid standard of quality. Each bottle has one year expiry date without any preservatives.

In the end, we bought two bottles of jelly. Their Muscat grapes is boasted to be the most expensive of its kind. We took New Pione grapes and golden peaches jelly. We might be able to expect this product in Rustans in the near future or in mercato pop ups. We were very impressed with the taste and freshness of every bite. *Oishi!!*

Other products included bags, colorful Frixion pens, stapler without wire and glue tape. It was very fun for me learning more about Japanese products since all we have are just a peek (thanks Daiso, Japan Home and others) of what Japan has to offer to the Philippines.

Singo Umano of Demin Closet tells us that he *"believes that PH is a growing economy here on"* and we do agree. Many are now able to travel to the Land of the Rising Sun, shop, come back and shop some more. With the steady influx of Japanese businesses in the country, this might be a good opportunity to experience Japan culture.

Snapshot Japan is presented by Global Initiative, Inc. with the support of the Japan Foundation, Manila. Follow #SnapshotJapan on social media.

Digital Dimensions: Video Art Projections by Naoko Tosa is presented by Yuchengco Museum with the support of the Japan Foundation, Manila and with thanks to the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Government of Japan.



WHERE'S MY PHONE

by kandy

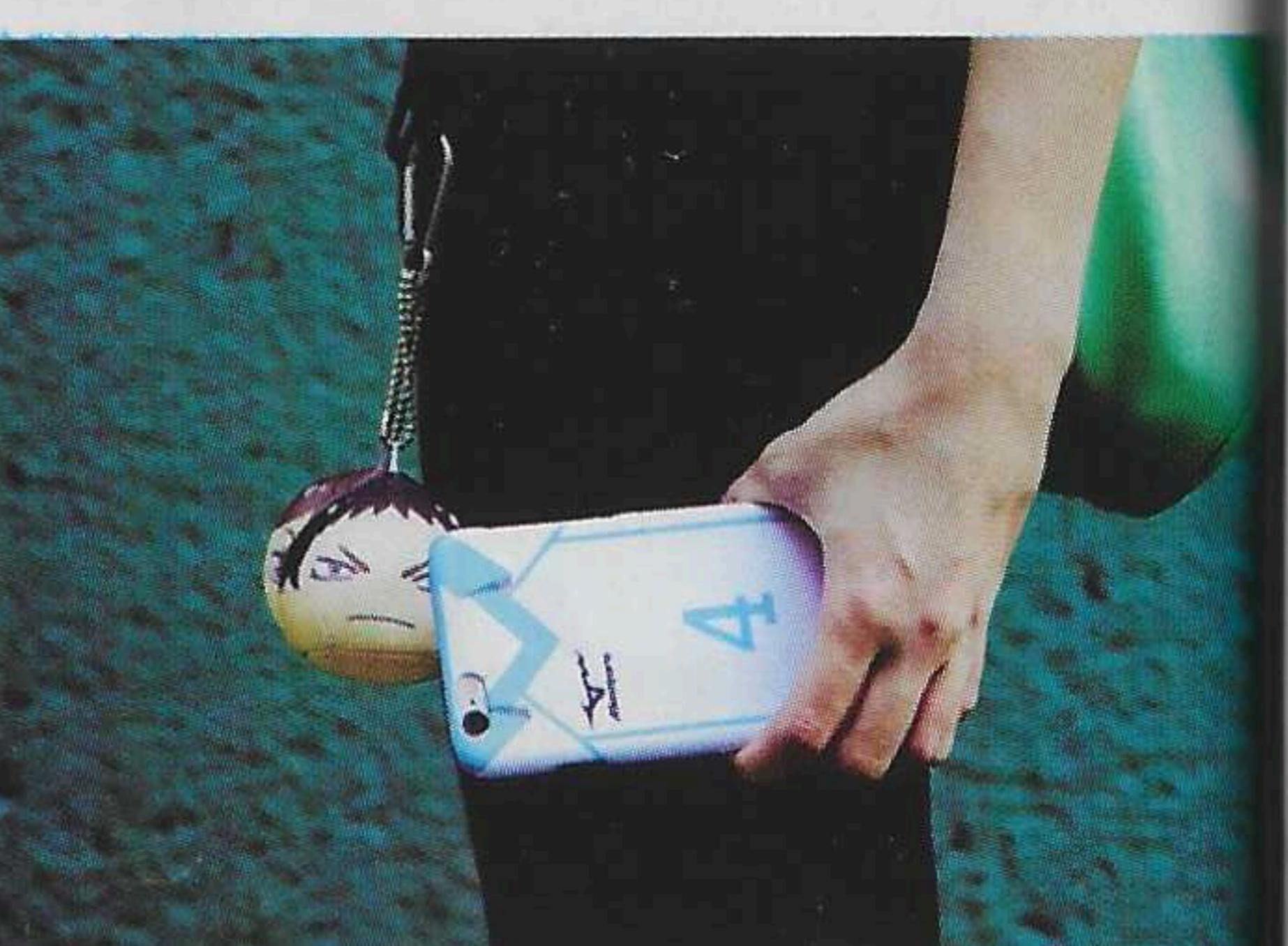
70% of Filipinos are smartphone users (PDI statistic) and one way to accessorize your phone is through phone cases. But we otaku love to show off our fandom and SUMAFO lets us do both!

Otaku Asia supports local small businesses and when we heard of a product selling phone cases with original designs of our fandom (Yuri on Ice), it was almost automatic that we'd feature them.

Cecille Castell, owner and designer of SUMAFO was more than happy to meet with us. "It started when with me just wanting to have a phone case," she explains "and I wanted it to be my fandom-related." She was into the sports anime, Haikyuu!! and has started to create minimalist designs on cases and bookmarks. It was a little late when I realized I had bought a bookmark once before and we also featured SUMAFO under the Project Senpai! article (Issue 33).

Starting with Haikyuu!!, Free!, Kuroko no Basuke (puro sports anime, bes?) the cases started in 2014 with the aim to print phone cases of original designs inspired by anime. Yes that's right. All designs are made in vector by Castell for the fandom. All hail the fandom.

There are two types of cases: glossy and matte. Castell highly recommended the matte to us and we caved in almost instantly. First of all, the cases are printed per order. It is unlikely that they will have an on-hand case for your smartphone of your chosen design. Follow these steps:



Step 1: Check if your smartphone is available. Their list is limited but is updated often.

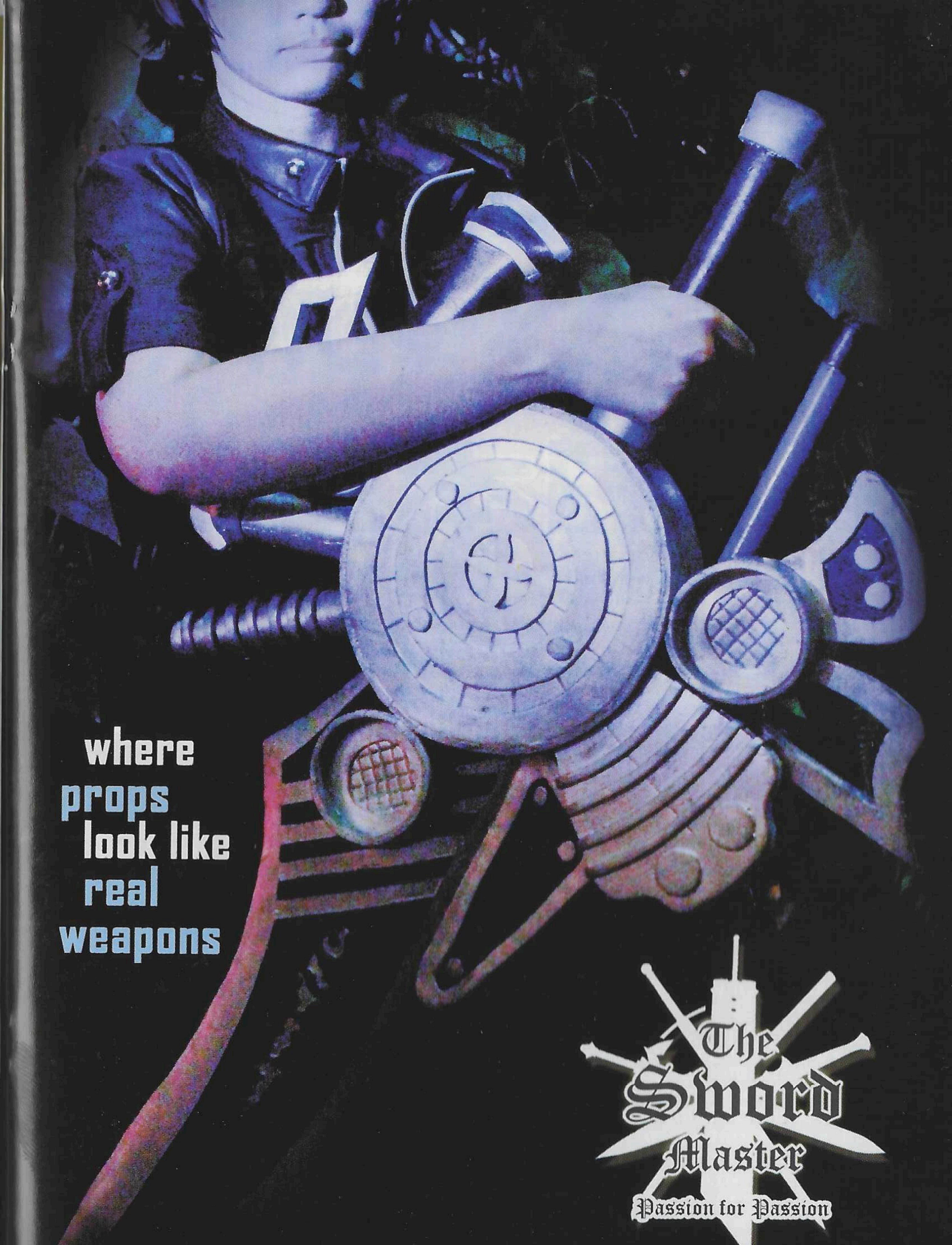
Step 2: Choose your design. All designs will always be available. Check their album. If you have a character/ show/ design to suggest, give the team 2 weeks lead time.

Step 3: Message the page. Wait for confirmation and fill out the Pre-order Form.

Step 4: Review their e-mail for fee and send 50% down payment. Fulfill this within 3 days.

Step 5: Receive a picture of the case. I guess this is when you send the balance payment.

Receive it and enjoy your case!
We loved our matte cases and hope to see more designs in the future!



where
props
look like
real
weapons

The
Sword
Master
Passion for Passion

Contact Person: Miko Garcia
Facebook: /TheSwordMasters

Twitter: /TheSw0rdMaster
Contact # 0935 665 6760



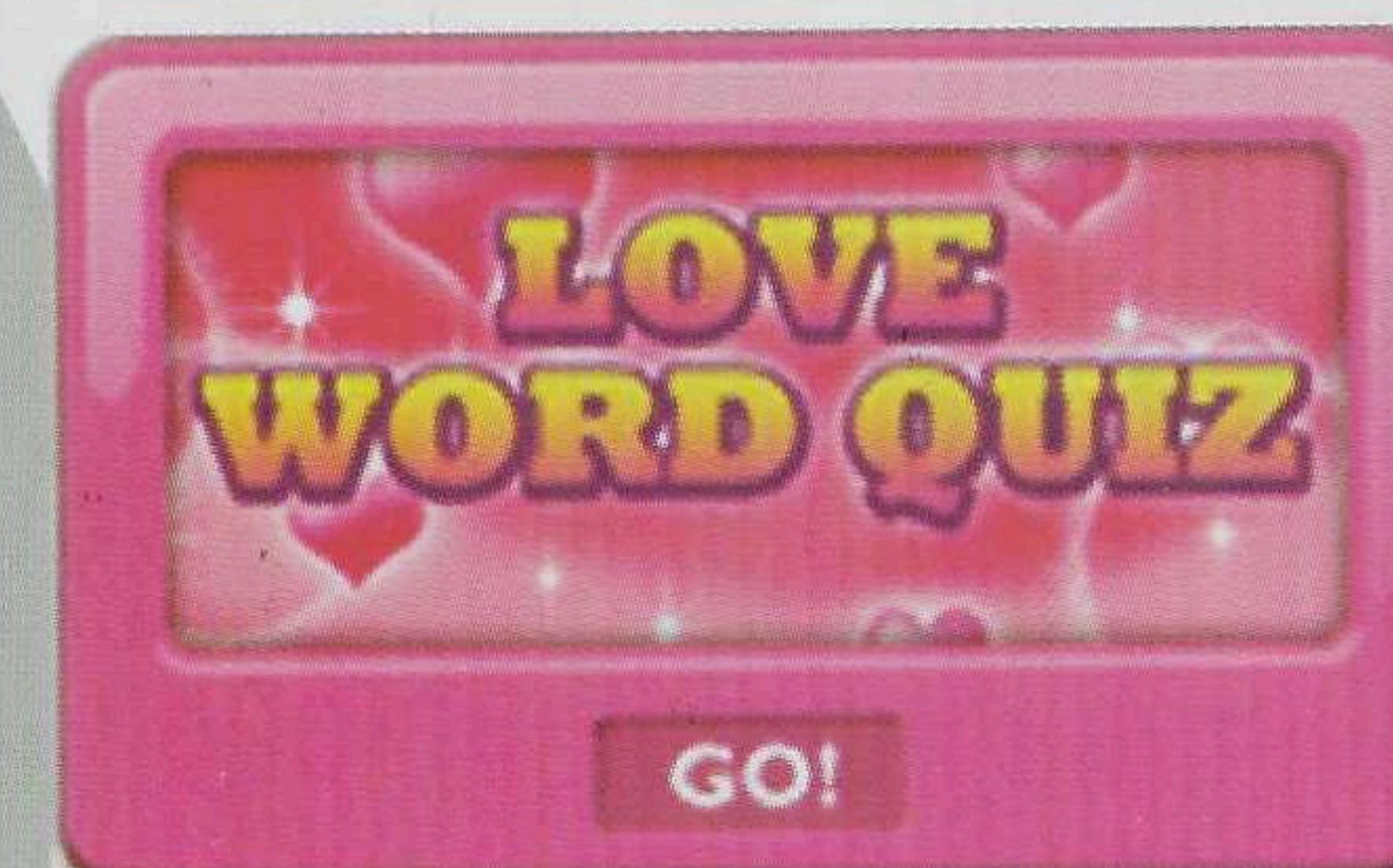
OTAKU LIFE HACKS

by Mikelle

*All images are courtesy of
The Japan Foundation, Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

If you haven't visited anime-manga.jp yet then you don't know what you've been missing. The site is created and managed by the Japan Foundation, Japanese-Language Institute of Kansai. It is an e-learning site that aims to give anime and manga lovers from around the world an opportunity to learn Japanese in a fun and enjoyable manner. The site uses anime and manga as a medium for both students and teachers to deepen their understanding of the Japanese language and culture.

Anime-manga.jp features different contents and are categorized as Character Expressions, Expression by Scene, Word Quiz and Kanji Game. Under these contents are different games that have their own level of difficulties to which users could take their time and thoroughly study each of them. Here are some of the contents featured on the site:



CHARACTER EXPRESSIONS

Learners can study and get familiarized with different expressions by 8 different character types that are commonly found in anime and manga: boy, girl, scrapper, samurai, old man, elite lady, butler and Osakan.

This content is divided into three different sections. The first is Character Lineup where the users can take a glance at the 8 different character types featured. You may familiarize yourselves on the characters' manner of speaking by reading and also listening to the provided audio for each line. The second is Character Dictionary which contains a total of 4 stages. It is here where users can learn about how each character uses expressions by single phrase, aliases, grammar and pronunciation. The third and last one is the Quiz: Whose Line? where you'll be guessing which character is speaking the line given. This is where users can challenge themselves based on what they've learned from the previous sections. How many questions can you answer correctly?

EXPRESSION BY SCENE

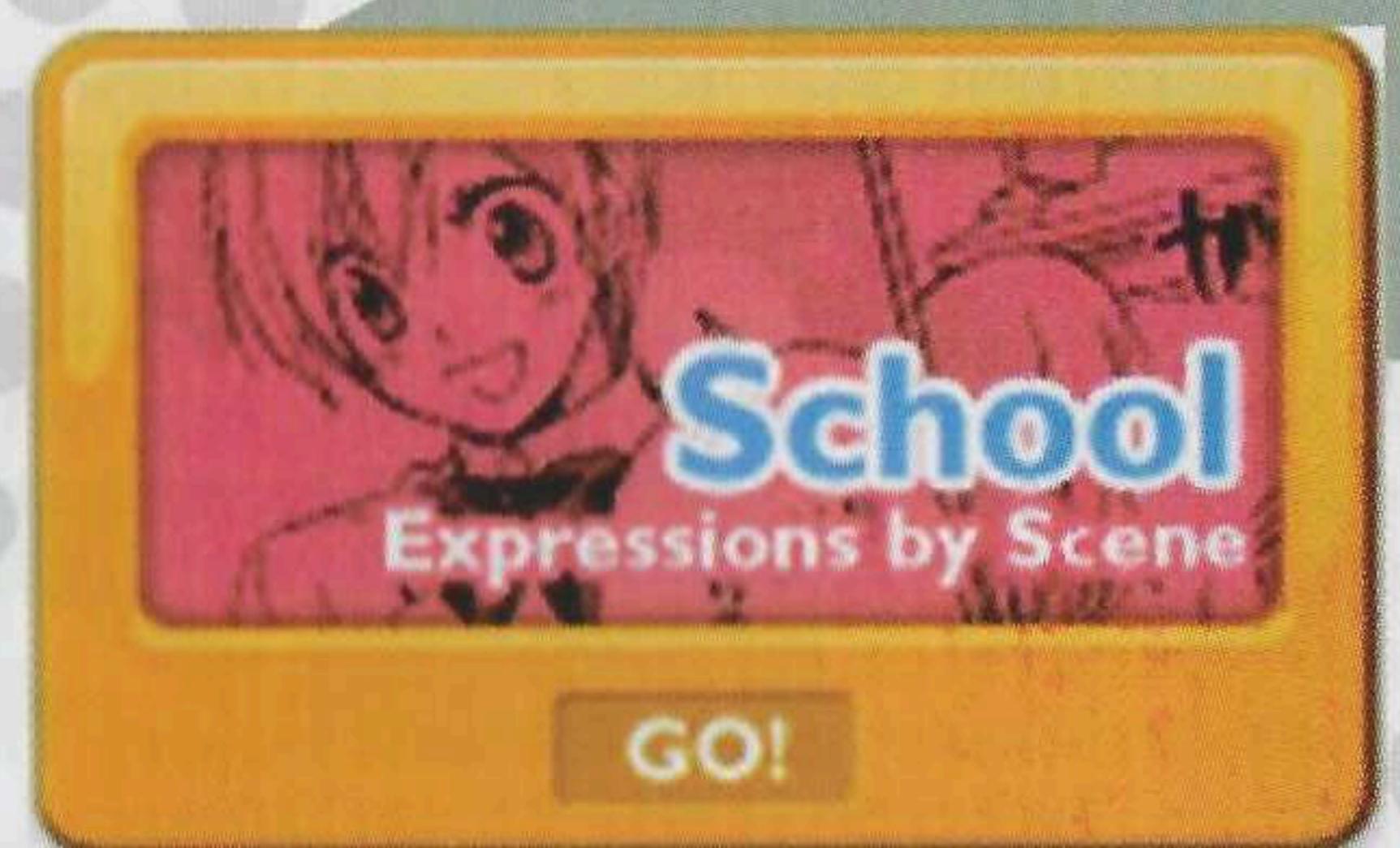
This content is basically an onomatopoeia quiz where learners can study single phrases, onomatopoeia and cultural information using different manga genre which are samurai, school, love and ninja.

This is a very basic module where after the users choose their wanted genre and go through the different scenes of that selected manga. Users just need to scroll down and choose a scene so that they may see the manga in greater detail and study them. Once they've familiarized themselves with the different scenes, they may click on the Quiz: Sound FX section where they'll need to identify the correct sound effect that should be used on the featured scene by dragging and dropping the correct sound into the scene. Test yourselves and check out how far you can go.

KANJI GAME

This is the last content where users focus on leaning on the meaning and how to read common kanji found in the presented genres. Everyone knows that kanji is a challenging subject where most are afraid to delve into but don't worry since you'll be thoroughly guided in this content. Users may choose from beginner and upper-intermediate modes so don't be afraid to start from the very basic.

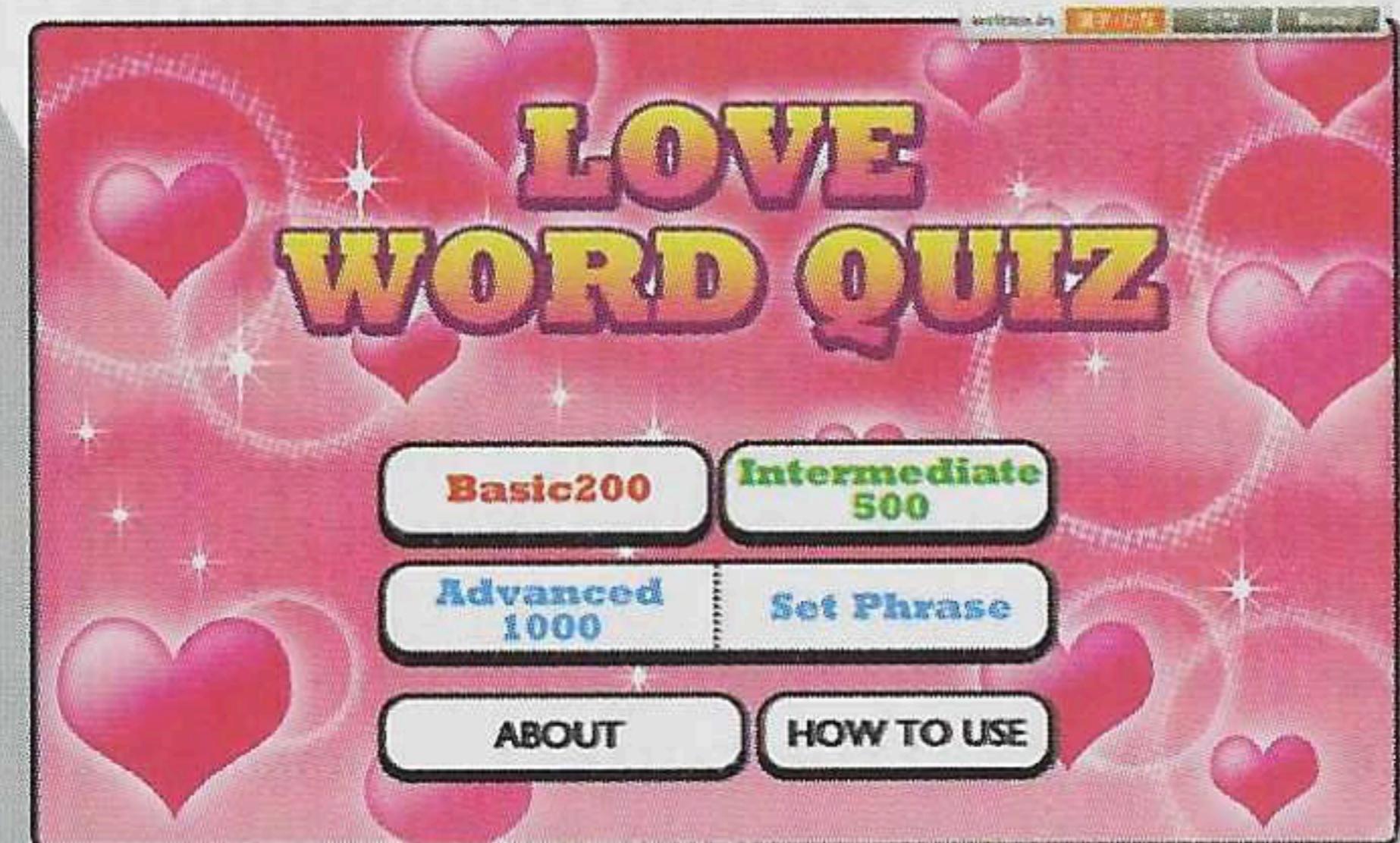
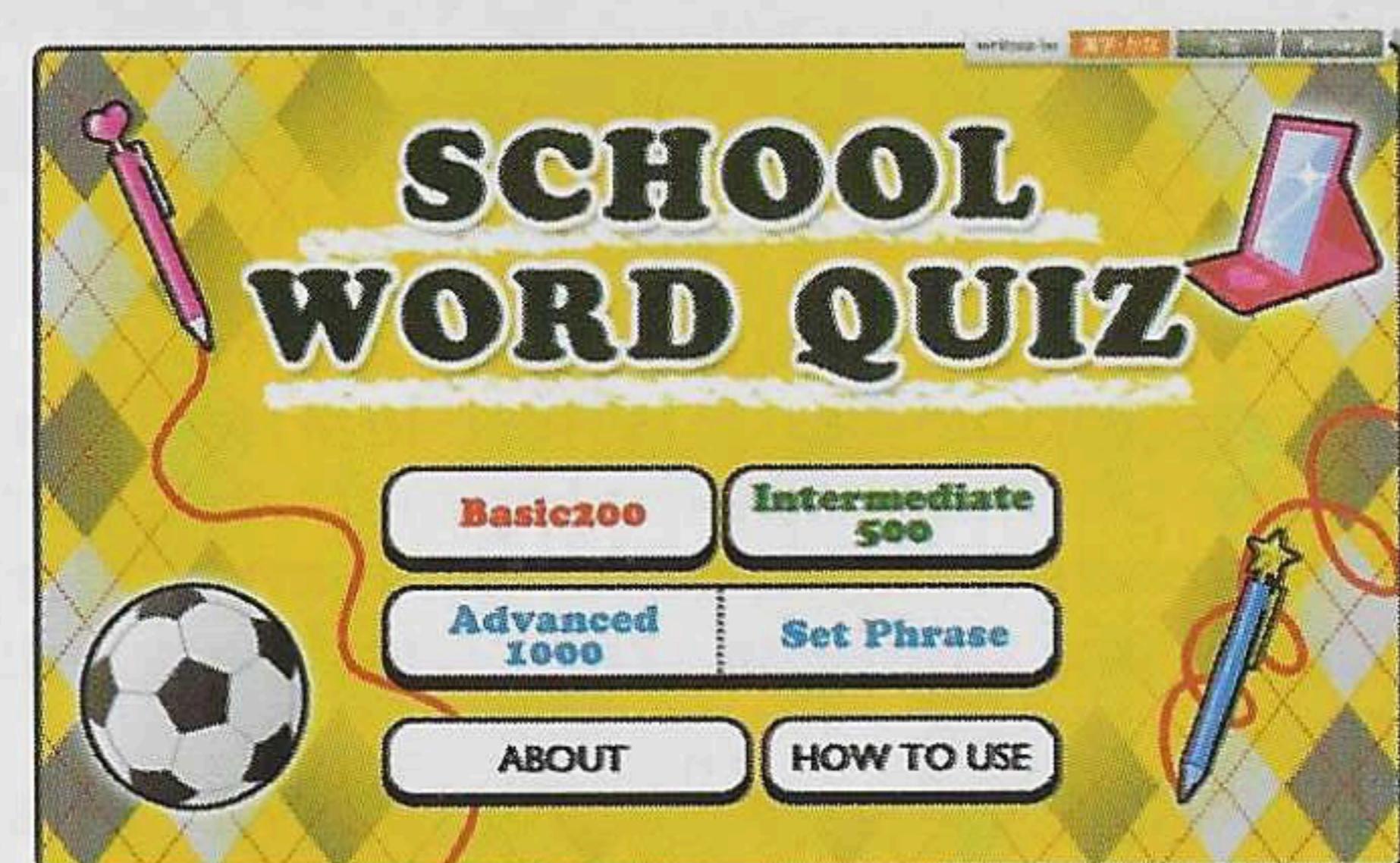
First choose from the difficulty that you'll be studying under. Novice users would then be able to pick from Kanji Meaning, Kanji Reading, Find the Kanji and Kanji Meaning & Reading. Expert mode is almost the same but with the additional Find the Common Kanji content. The game is basically a multiple choice where you'll need to choose from the different answers provided based on the given question. Head up though since there is a time limit but user are able to use hints up to three times. Upon finishing a set in a game, you'll be directed to the results where your overall points are shown along with the percentage of correct answers. Keep trying and studying until you get a passing grade to which you'll be satisfied with and some prizes awaits those who are diligent. Have fun in learning how to read and understand different kanji in this module.



WORD QUIZ

This is the part where users can challenge themselves with quizzes from different genres which are categorized into different levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced. After choosing a suited level, users would be given 10 different questions to answer by choosing the correct English that matches the Japanese meaning of the word or phrase. Make sure to answer all 10 questions before submitting your answers and you would then be shown the results where you may review any items that you've made a mistake with.

Reviewing one's mistakes is quite helpful so that you can avoid answering wrong the next time. You'd be given an explanation of the word the mistaken word along with a manga example with audio to easily familiarize you with that word. Try taking on consecutive challenges and aim for the best possible score you can achieve to master each genre.



Anime-manga.jp is a very useful website where user would have fun with games and quizzes about anime and manga related topics. This should help users to gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese language and culture which otakus all adore. Try to progress in and expand your knowledge in order to measure and improved your ability level when it comes to the Japanese culture that we love.

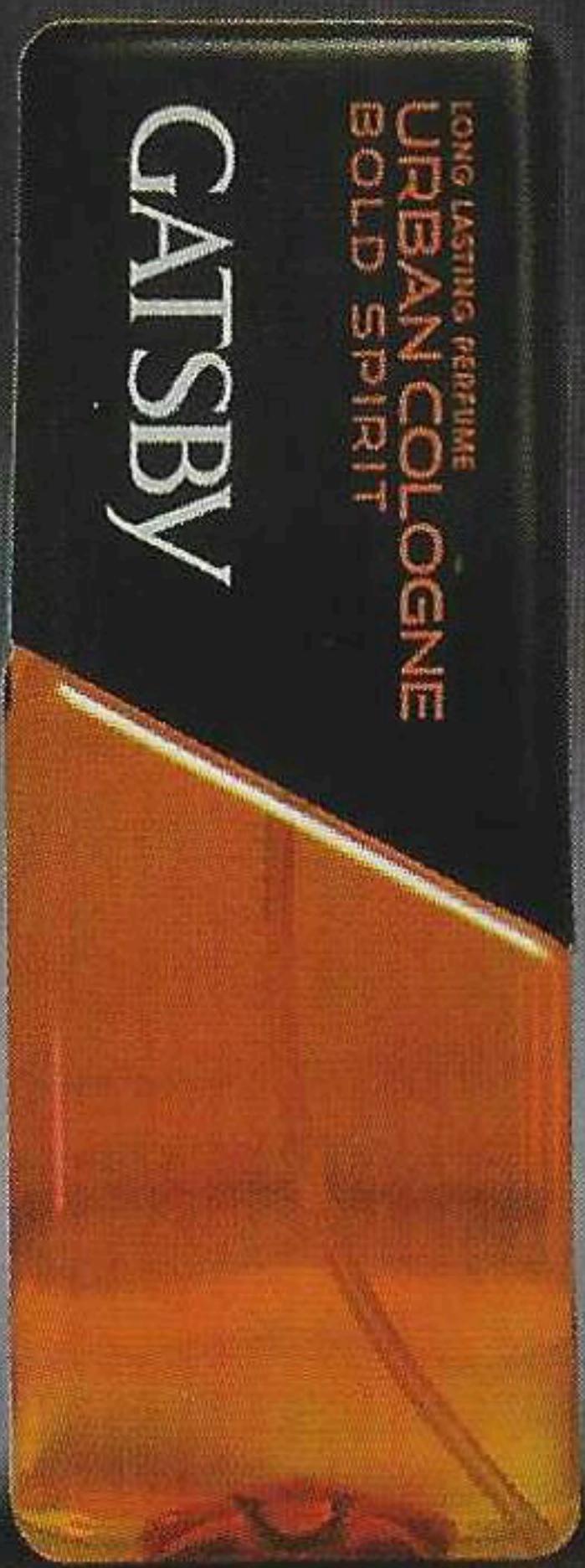


GATSBY

LONG LASTING PERFUME
URBAN COLOGNE
New Fragrance Collection for Men

FIND YOUR GATSBY SIGNATURE SCENT

Every man needs a signature scent that shows off his unique personality. Gatsby Urban Cologne collection are fresh, clean, bold fragrances with an urban edge recommended for casual use.



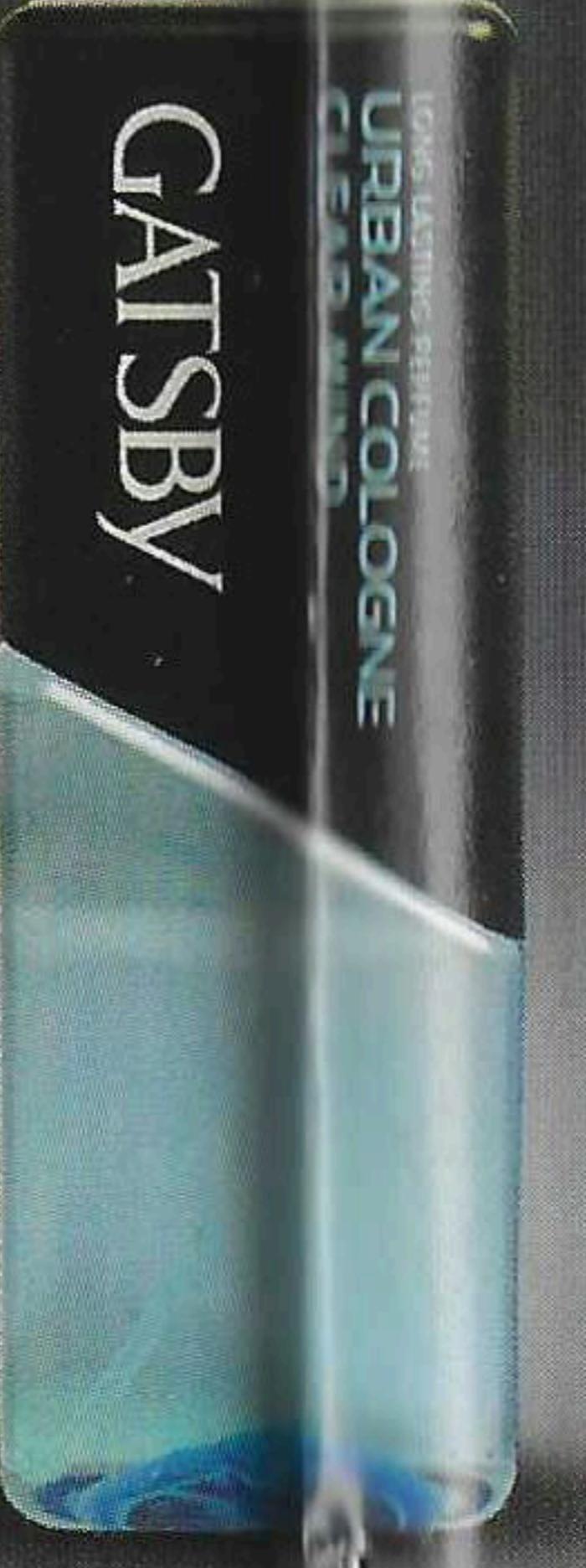
BOLD SPIRIT

A warm note combining spicy and rich aroma creates an active and adventurous image



LUXURY AIR

A warm and tranquil note incorporating aromatic freshness creates a calm and forward-looking image



CLEAR MIND

A refreshing note combining clear citrus and fruit notes creates a jovial yet elegant



SECRET STYLE

A modern note incorporating a hint of fruity note creates a cool and stylish image



PERFECT SENSE

A deeply spicy and cool note creates a smart and cultivated image

Why is the NEWS section so far out here?

We don't know either but hey, look!! A LIST OF ANNOUNCEMENTS!! Here is our list of upcoming adaptations that you'd might want to check out or if you are following the manga/ game/ light novel, this might be the time to promote them to your friends!

Yoru wa Mijikashi Arukeyo Otome

The work by novelist Tomihiko Morimi, *Yoru wa Mijikashi Arukeyo Otome*, will be adapted into an anime movie!

The protagonist falls in love with "Otome," his junior in a college club, and struggles daily to be noticed by her. However, "Kurokami no Otome" is naïve and unsophisticated and is completely indifferent to him. This comical love fantasy depicts funny and interesting daily happenings in the city of Kyoto.

Director: Masaaki Yuasa
Script Writer: Makoto Ueda
Character Designer: Yusuke Nakamura

Theme Song: ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION

The director will be Masaaki Yuasa. The new movie will feature the same team of creators behind the anime *The Tatami Galaxy*

Source: Jmanga, manga.tokyo



Donten ni Warau: Gaiden

It was decided that the manga *Donten ni Warau: Gaiden* (Laughing Under the Clouds Side Story) will get a theatrical anime adaptation. The movie will hit cinemas later this year in winter.

In cinemas winter 2017

Source: manga.tokyo,
animeanime.jp



Isekai wa Smartphone to Tomo ni



Going to other worlds is a thing now. The light novel *Isekai no Smartphone to Tomoni* tells the same story:

Touya Mochizuki was accidentally killed, and as an apology, God allows him to be reborn in a fantasy world and will grant him any one wish he desires. And so, Touya chooses to keep his smartphone in the next world. In his second chance at life, he befriends many important figures and comes across the world's secret. He inherits the legacy of an ancient civilization and travels around nonchalantly while possessing powers that rival this world's kings.

Director: Hiroyuki Yanase
Character Designer: Toshihide Masutate, Masahiro Sekiguchi, Miyako Nshida

Summer 2017

Source: manga.tokyo
website: isesuma-anime.jp

Asagao to Kase-san

A yuri anime to balance all that yaoi of 2016:

"I wish... I wish that Kase-san would start to like me"

2nd year high schooler Yamada is a shy girl in the Greenery Committee. Kase is the beautiful girl in the class next door who belongs to the track and field club.

Thanks to the Morning Glory that Yamada plants, the distance between her and Kase, to whom she had never spoken before, slowly begins to grow smaller.

Director: Takuya Sato
Character Design / Animation
Director: Kyuta Sakai
Background Art: Yuka Hirama

5-minute animation

Source: manga.tokyo
website: asagao-anime.com



あさがおと加瀬さん

Mitsuboshi Colors

Hark! The city is in peril! Who you gonna call? Colors!

Sacchan, Yui and Kotoha are here to protect the city, solving mysteries and battling enemies with help from their friends.

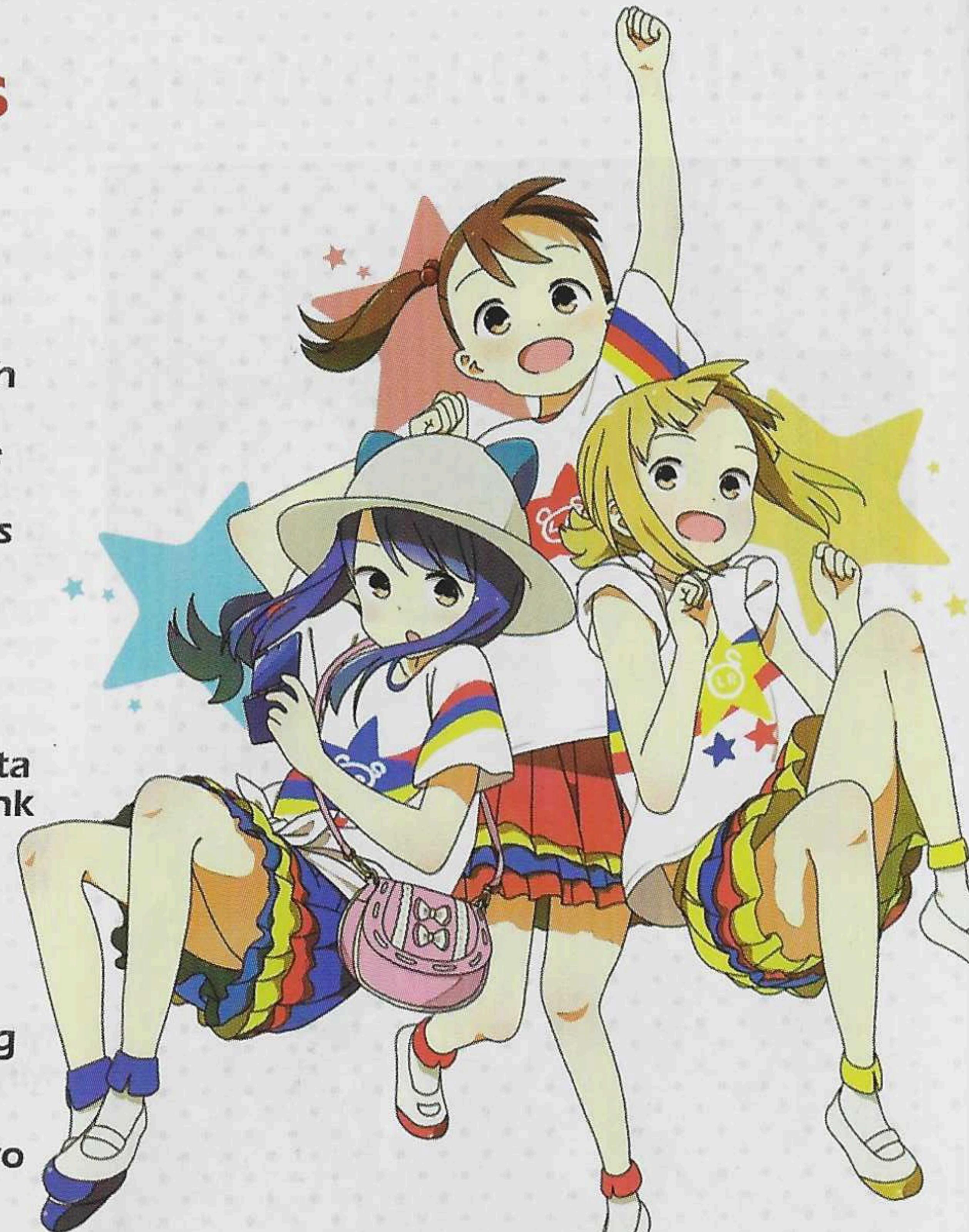
But their quest isn't an easy one as their arch-nemesis Saitou, the violent police officer of Ueno, meets them at every turn.

Director: Tomoyuki Kawamura
Series Conductor: Shogo

Yasukawa
Character Design: Takumi Yokota
Animation Production: Silver Link

The official homepage for the anime has also been opened. In celebration of this announcement, Katsuwo has drawn a special illustration, which is currently being used on the official homepage.

Source: natalie.mu, manga.tokyo



Mitsuboshi Colors

People have been created that are human-animal hybrids, and powerful businesses bet on the outcome of their duels. College student Nomoto Yuuya's casual acquaintances ask him to drive them around to pick up girls one day, which he soon finds out means by force.

The girl they kidnap is an animal-human hybrid named Hitomi, who slaughters all of them except Yuuya. Hitomi is a honey badger, which has been called the most fearless of all animals. Now Hitomi is assigned to stay with Yuuya, for his protection!

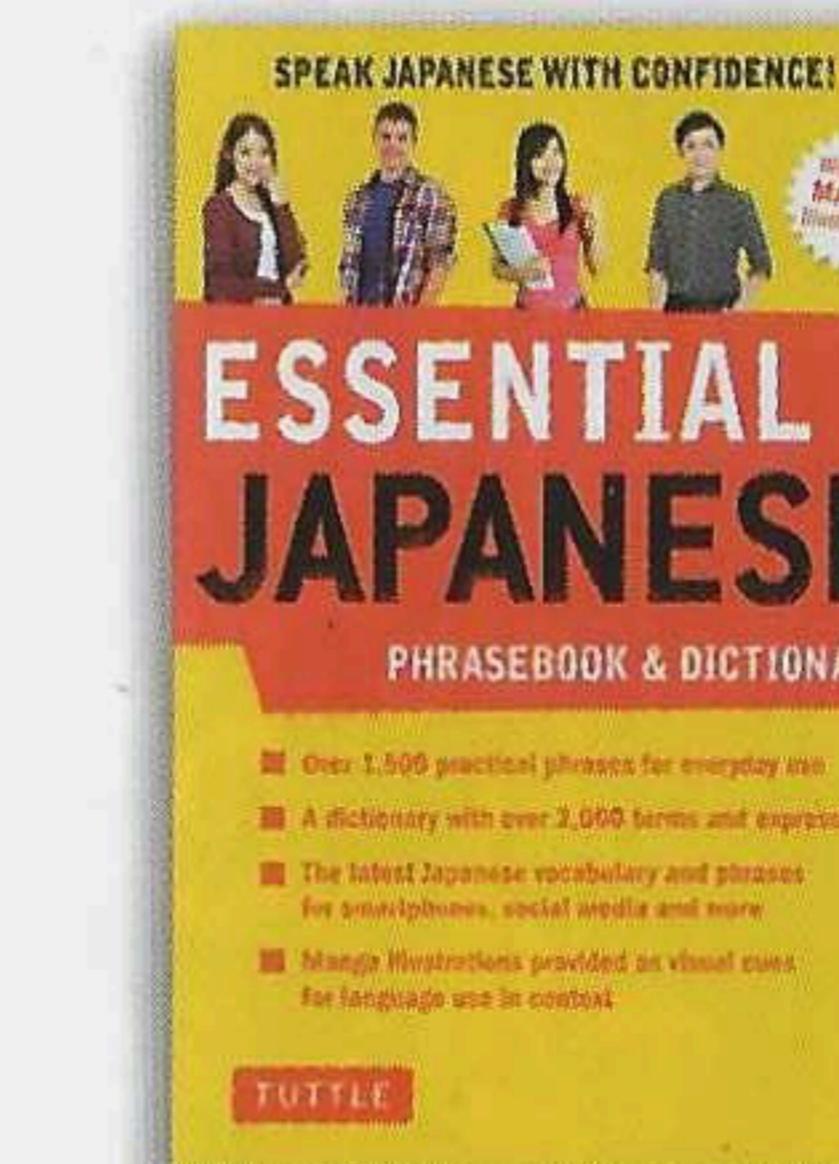
Source: animeanime.jp, manga.tokyo

All these anime and all you need to do is wait! We'll see if any of them makes Otaku Asia cover next~



TUTTLE

SEPTEMBER NEW RELEASES



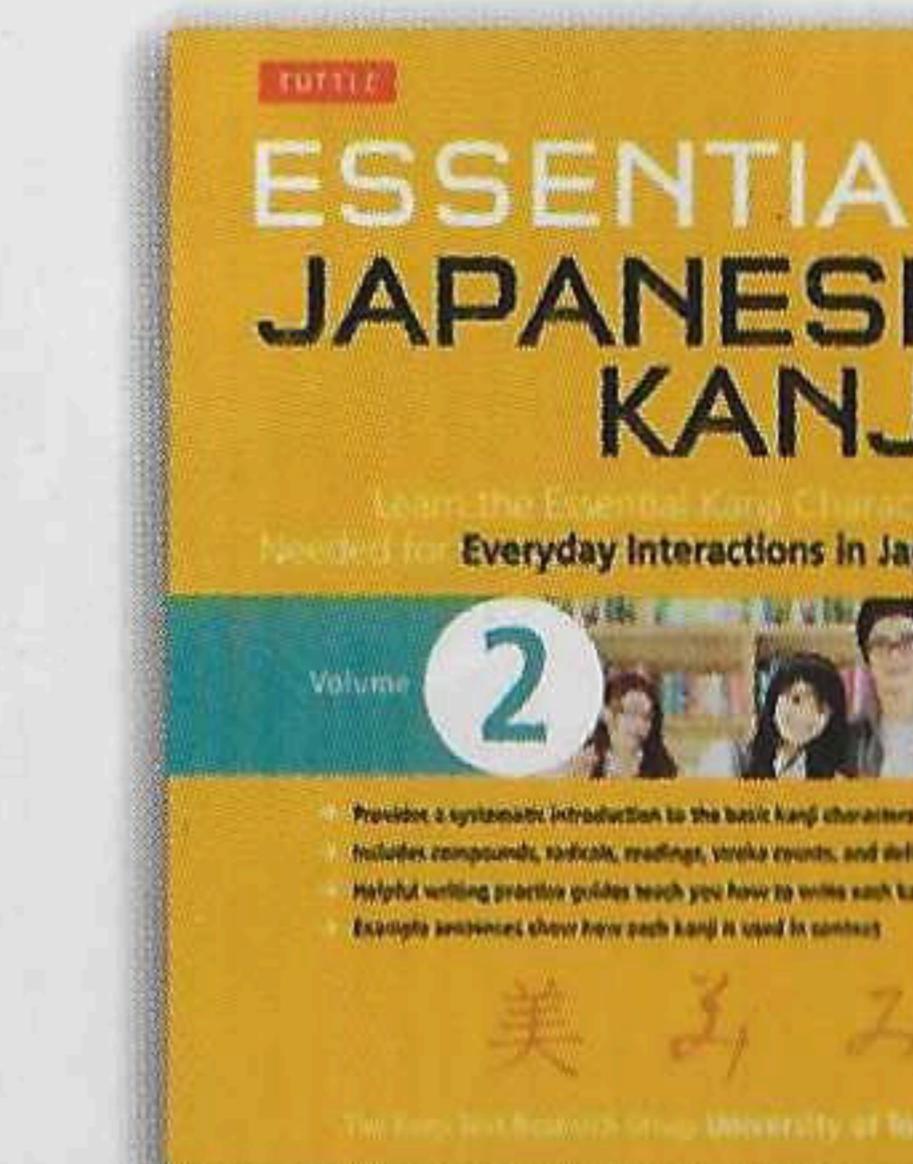
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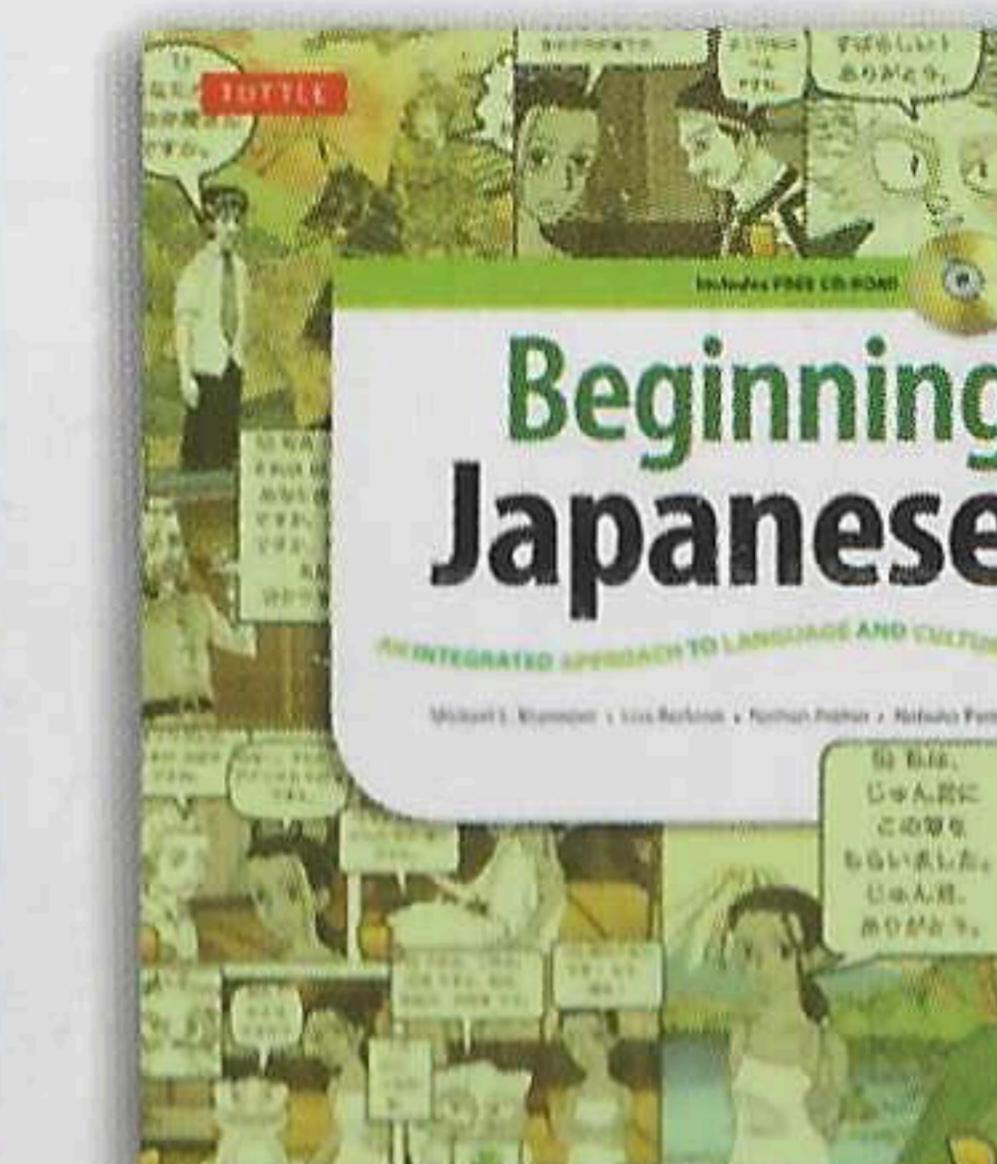
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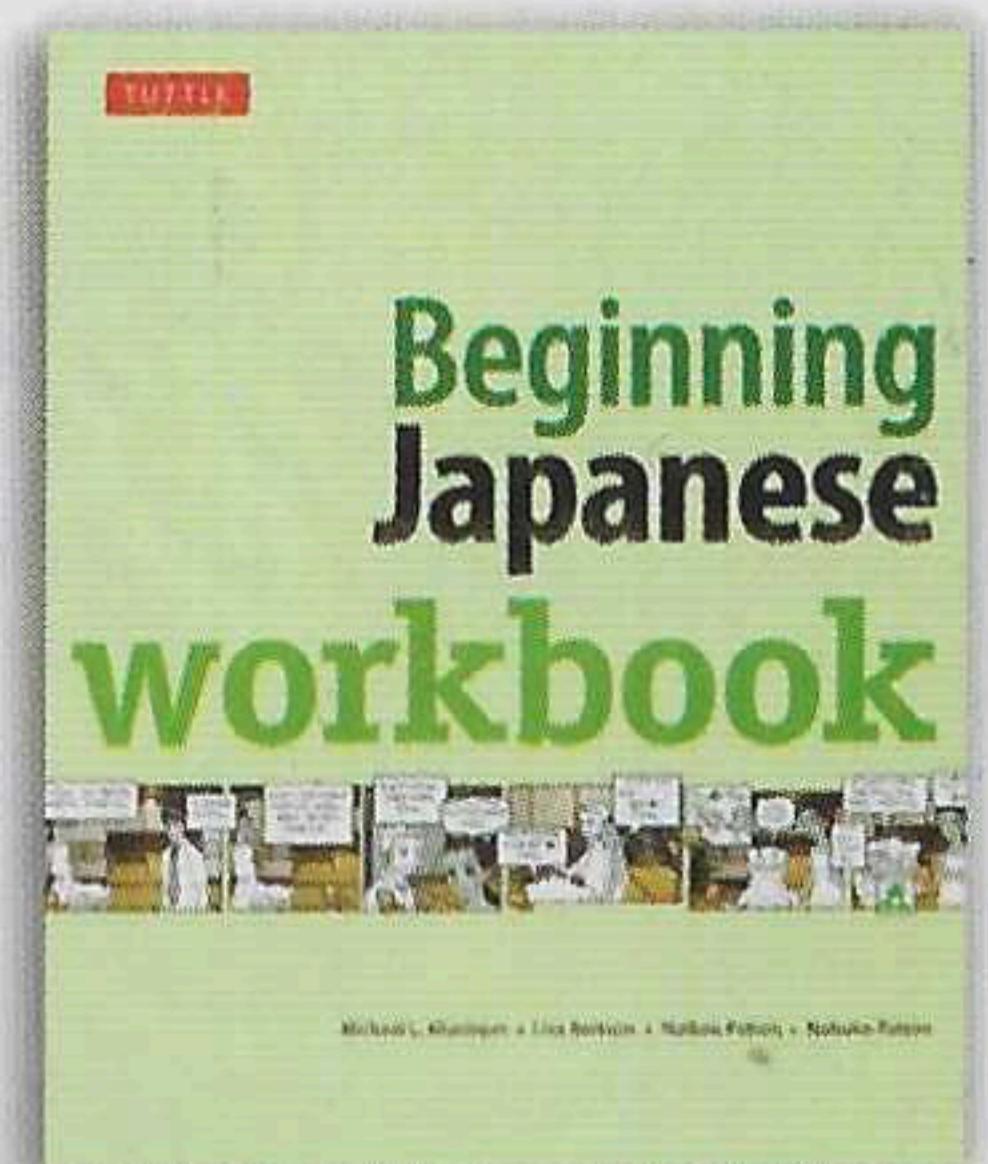
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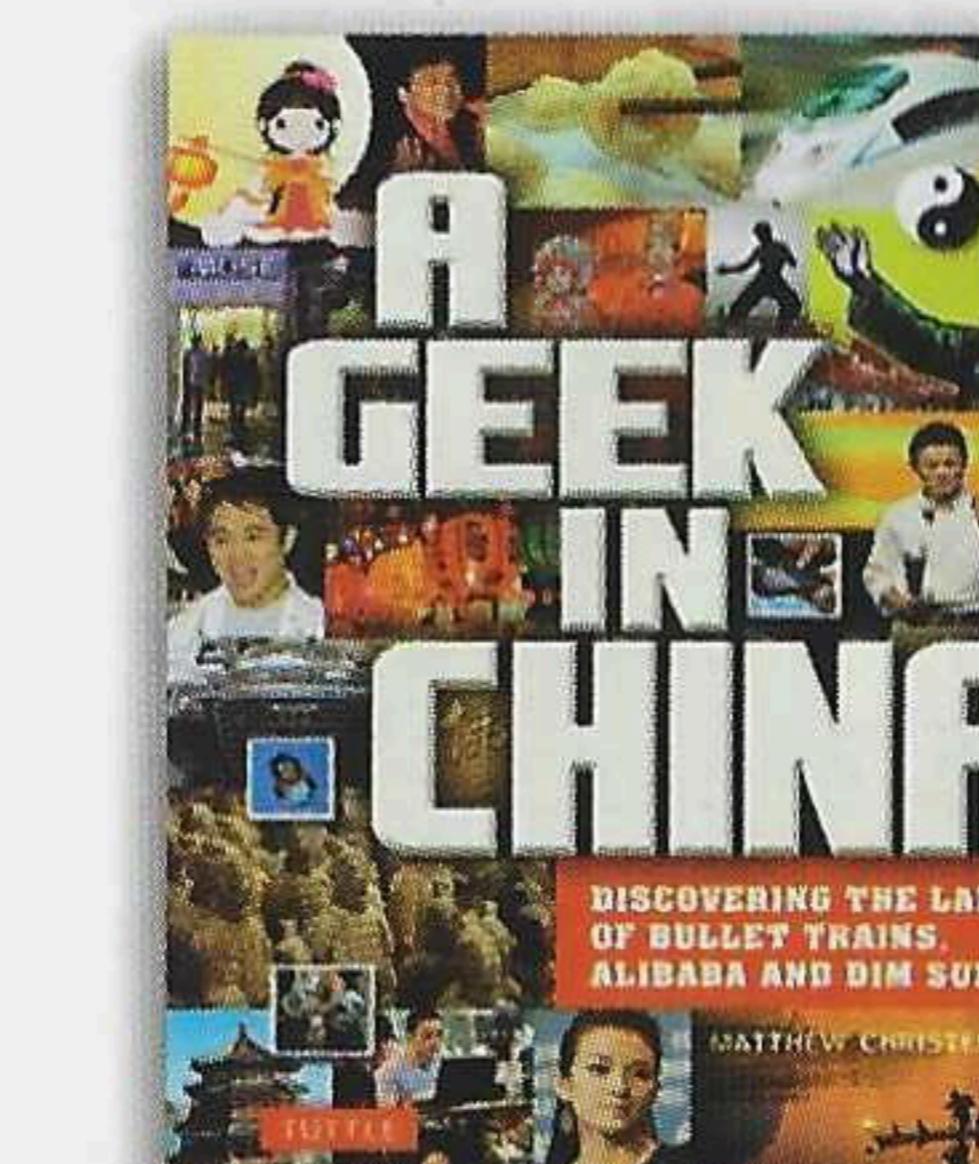
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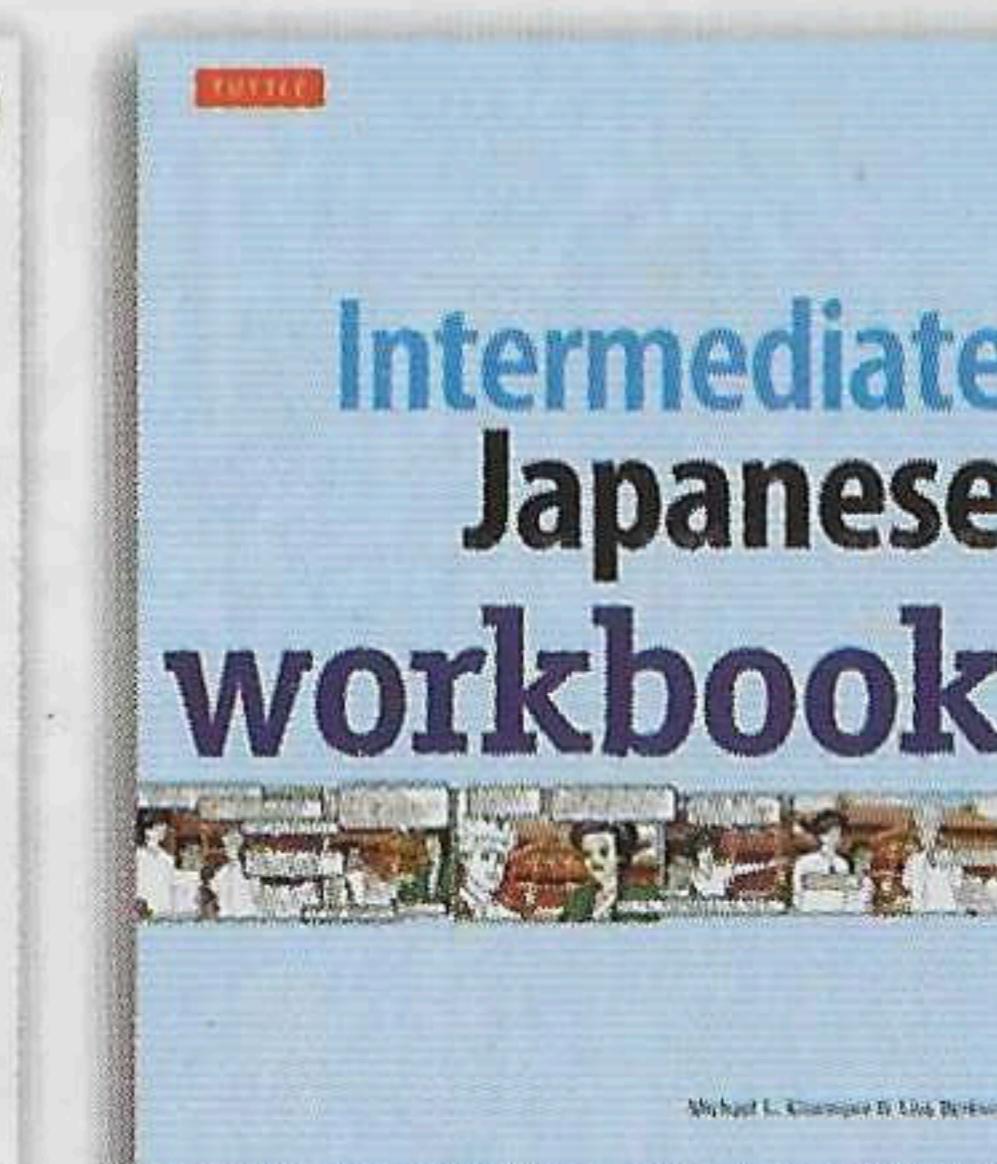
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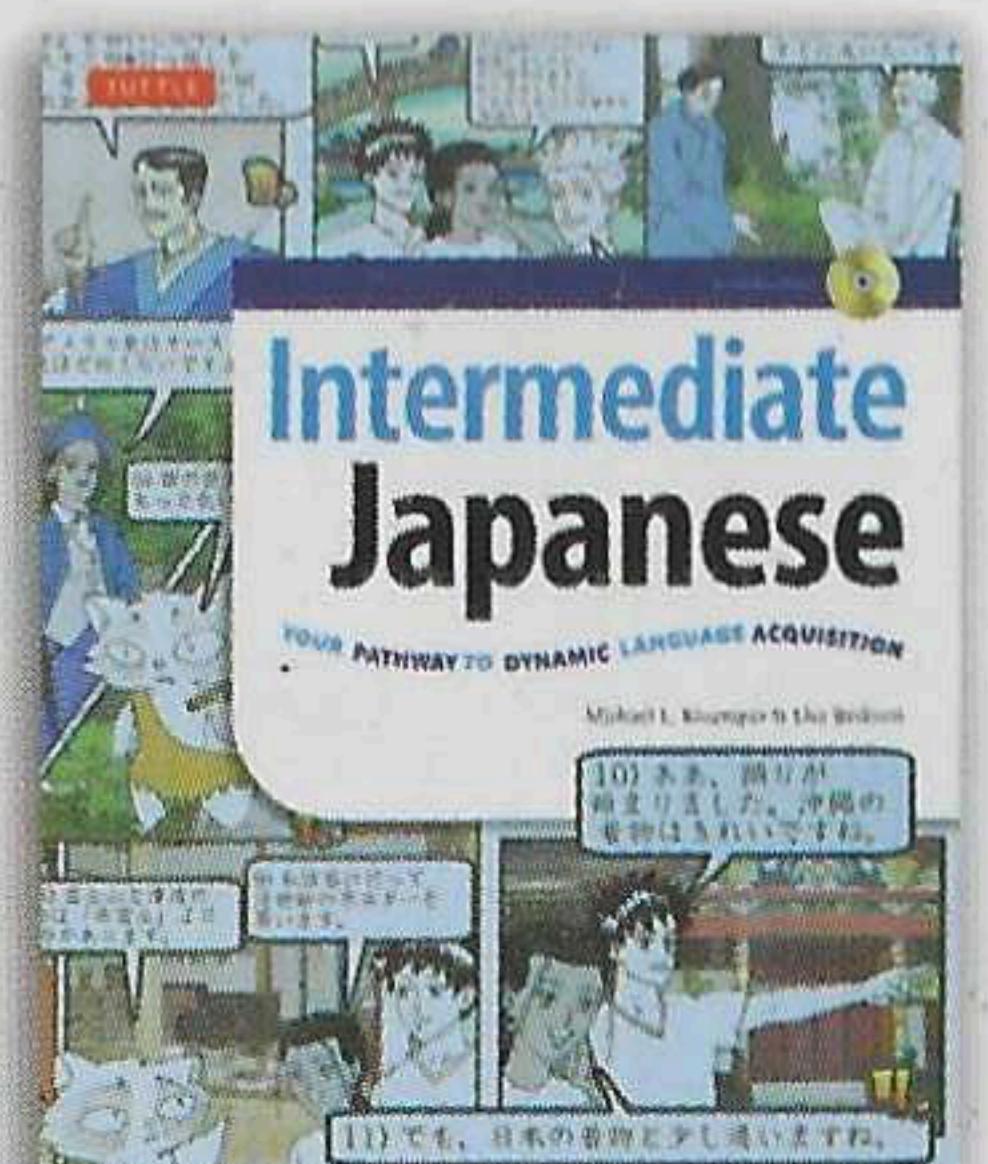
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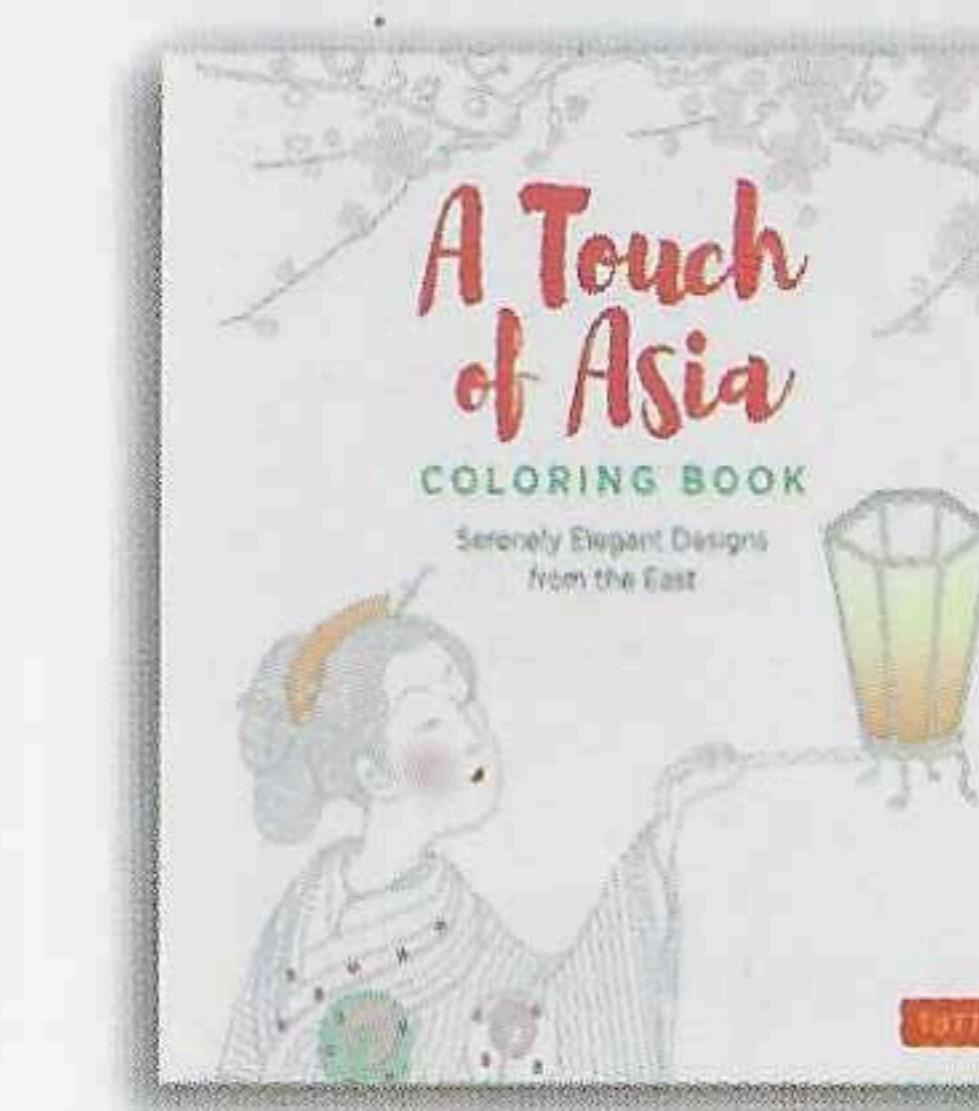
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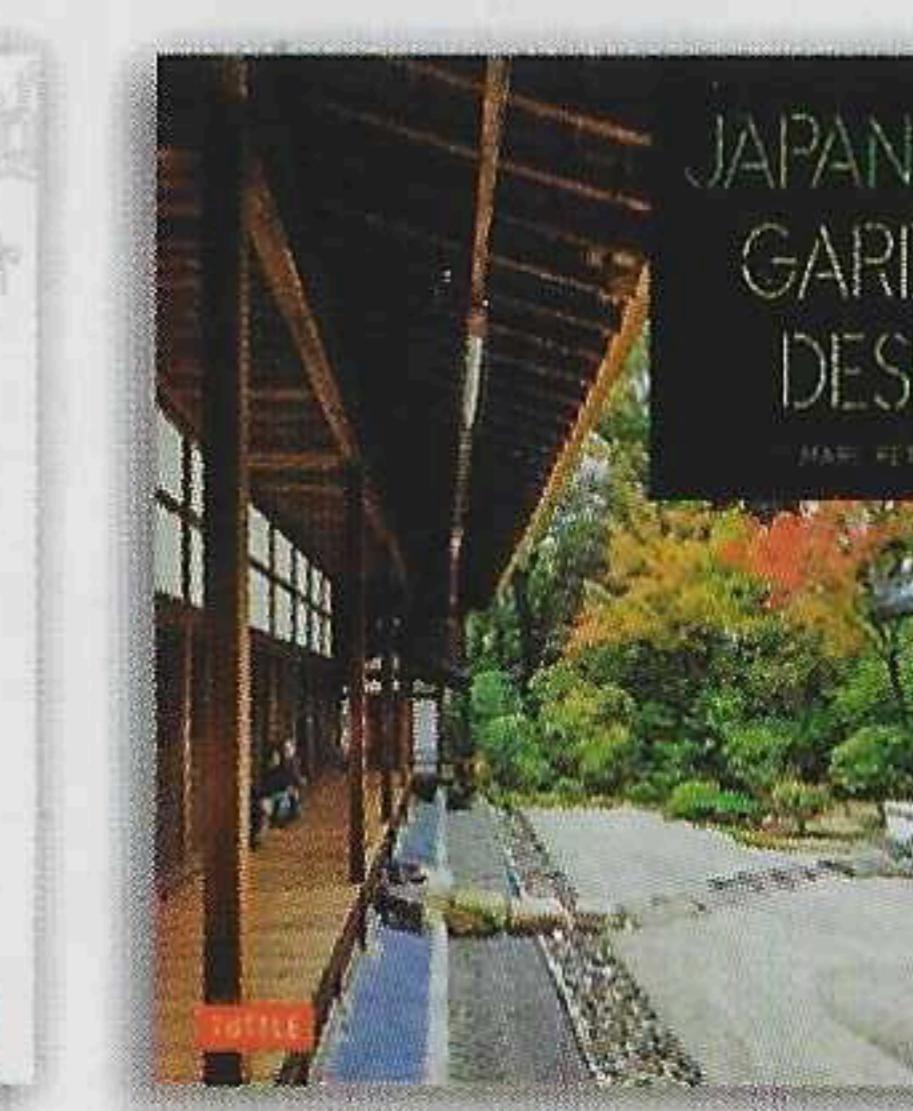
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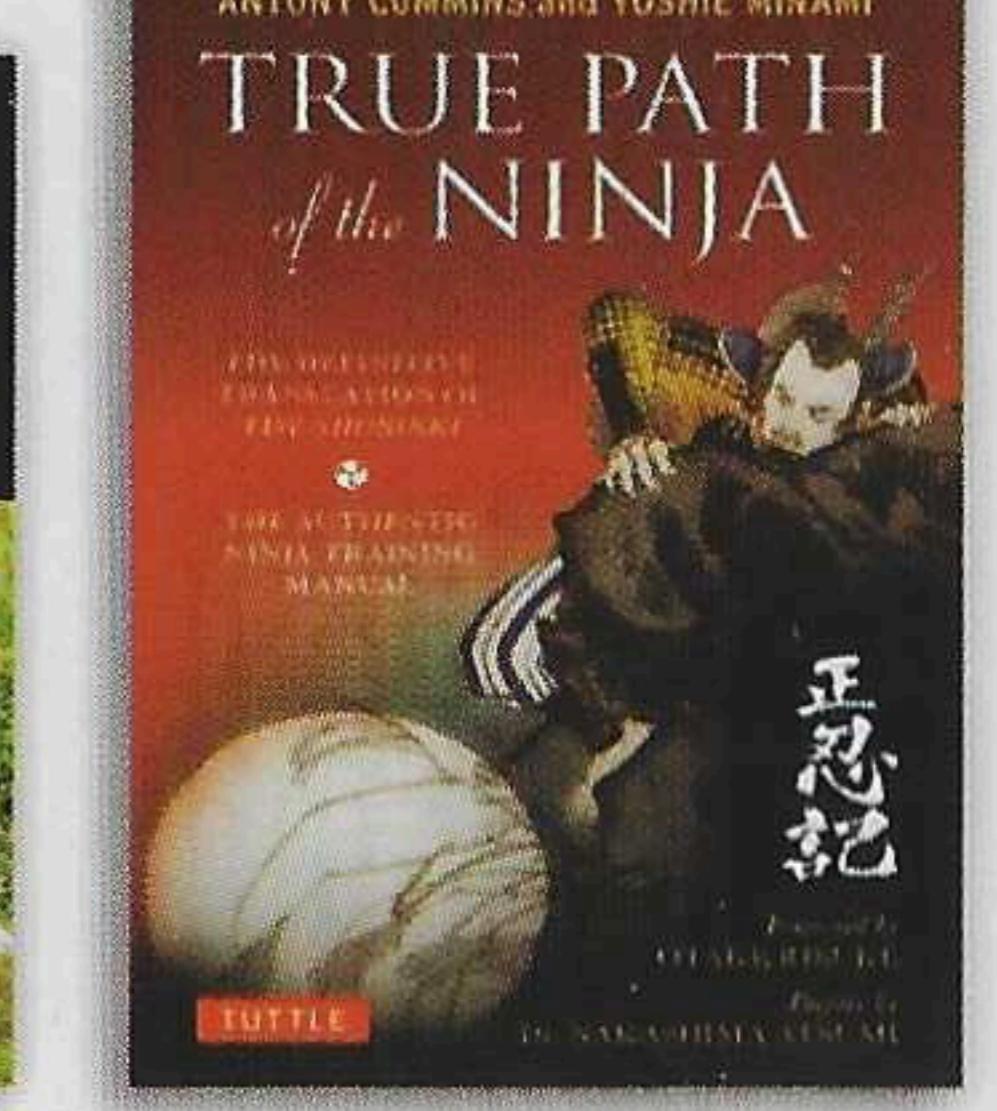
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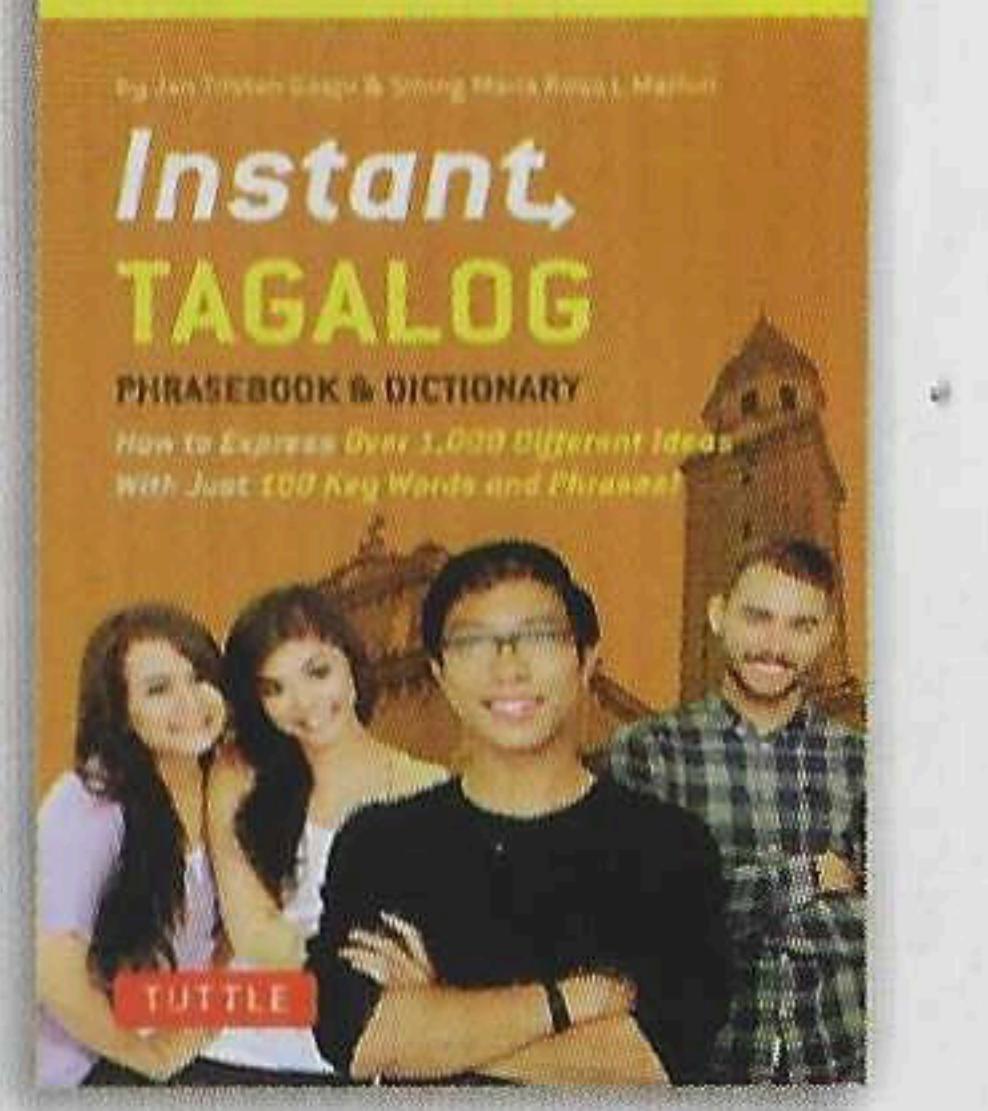
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STAGE PLAY

by kanddy



Creator Utako Yukihiro announced a stage play adaption titled *B-Project on Stage "Over The Wave"*. of the popular fictional male idol group, B-PROJECT. B-PROJECT is a Japanese cross-media project by MAGES. about a group of virtual idols that began in 2015. As of January 2017 the project features an anime series, a manga adaptation, an upcoming rhythm game, an upcoming stage play, multiple music CDs, and a range of related merchandise.

The play cast includes Toman (Ryuji Korekuni), Tom Fujita (Kento Aizome), Ryo Taguchi (Kazuna Masunaga) and Shunya Ohira (Akane Fudo). As of writing, these were the only announced cast.

The B-PROJECT anime premiered last July and became very popular. The story follows Tsubasa, a new hire at the major recording company Gandala Music where he is assigned to oversee the idol unit "B-PROJECT". Throughout the anime, she gets involved in various incidents dealing with this group of men with differing personalities.

Fans have been saying that a musical makes a lot of sense given the nature of the project and the plot being about idols. The online response has been massive! The project's staff announced the adaptation at the "Love & Art Family MTG 2017 ~Happy Flower Festival~ You no Bu B-PROJECT MTG" event on Sunday. Nine members of the anime's voice cast appeared and played the the B-PROJECT Muteki Dangerous smartphone game, which is accepting pre-registration now. Part of the play's cast will appear at Marvelous' booth at AnimeJapan 2017 on March 26.

While the anime wasn't entirely popular here in the Philippines, we pray the growth of Japanese idol fans will continue and that we may have more concert streamings here in the country!!

The stage play will premiere on July 28th in Japan. More details regarding the play will be confirmed at AnimeJapan 2017 on 25th March. Seems like many things will happen this AnimeJapan! Are you joining?

official website:
www.marv.jp/special/bpro_stage/
 source: ANN, tokusatsunetwork, Qoo News





by: lizac 3.0

What does the past hold? People always have memories they look back on, may it be of a lover, a family member who drifted away, or a friend they burned bridges with. Even Gintoki Sakata cannot escape this inevitable event.

But first, who is Gintoki Sakata again? (Do we really have to go through this?)

Gintoki used to be a practicing samurai. But the war against the so-called Amanto or aliens who invaded the earth, has ended. The reign of the samurai is also over, and Gintoki becomes a free soul. He is now a freelancer who will do almost anything (Yorozuya or General Merchant) that you ask him to. Be it look for missing cats or missing underwear, and fight the bad guys, name it, he will do it! He is almost a freeloader at his landlady's expense as he is not really seen being paid for what he does. And together with his team of freelancers Shinpachi and Kagura (who also do not get paid), Gintoki does a lot of funny things and gets caught up in misadventures. These misadventures often include the Shinsengumi and Amanto aliens.

Gin, how have you been?

After a year of not seeing the beloved Yorozuya team on television, Gintama is back and as action-packed as ever. Looking back to the previous season, Gintama' (2015) parted from us intensely: characters choosing sides, fighting to death, and eventually moving on with heavy hearts. The Shinsengumi have separated, leaving the Yorozuya team once again to themselves. It is very different from the usual oddly-humored episodes that we know of. Get ready once again for another string of serious episodes that will have to extend up until this season for the Battle on Rakuyo Arc. But rest assured that the comedy factor is also back to the limelight. (Yay!)

Gintama is an ongoing sci-fi, comedy manga written and illustrated by Hideaki Sorachi. It was published by Shueisha in 2002 and has 67 volumes so far. Each volume of the manga is always one of the top in Japanese manga rankings. As of 2016, more than 50 million copies in Japan have been sold and its first volume alone reached more than a million copies of sales. The first to fourth seasons had 201 episodes under the animation studio Sunrise. Gintama' and Gintama': Enchozen, which are sequels to the Gintama anime shown in 2006, were also produced by the same animation studio. It was Gintama' and this season that were animated by Bandai Namco Pictures. Despite often changing and switching staff, Gintama is a top anime loved by many.

Old memories, new battles

Gintama. starts with a few flashbacks from Gintoki's childhood. Gintoki had a dream, and the said dream was based on real events. When Gintoki was a child, he had a mentor whom he wanted to beat. He had beaten anyone else except this guy, and it infuriates him that he cannot. Yoshida Shouyou, Gintoki's mentor is a top tier samurai who later died in Gintoki's hands. Gintoki feels the guilt again when he reunited with his old comrades, Katsura and Takasugi. This sequel Gintama. focuses on memories of the past and the changes that happened along the way for the growth of each character. This season highlights the catalysts of growth. As Gintoki often said, "you cannot run away from the past you want to forget." True enough, you should face your fears, forgive the people who have done you wrong, forgive yourself, and eventually be able to move forward in life.



CHARACTERS

"JUMP is the best." – Gintoki, maybe.

Gintoki is the protagonist of the series and the head of Yorozuya. He seems to be very laid back, but he takes all his tasks seriously, especially when he starts warming up to the jobs. He upholds the virtue of loyalty as expected of a samurai. Despite his looks, he is quick-witted and good at combating. He was used to be feared by many Amanto aliens, mostly because of his reputation as a merciless swordsman. He does not really have a distinct style of fighting, but still strong nonetheless. Gintoki loves reading JUMP, a magazine of manga. He also loves sweets too much.

Gintoki Sakata

(CV: Sugita Tomokazu, Assassination Classroom – Tadaomi Karasuma; The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya - Kyon)



"I will punch you in the face... and eat, yeah." – The majestic Kagura.

Kagura is the female protagonist and an alien who belongs to one of the most violent members of the Amanto race. She left her home to earn money, but encountered mishap after mishap because of the aliens who cause her troubles. Upon encountering Gintoki and Shinpachi in an accident, Kagura forced Gintoki into hiring her at Yorozuya and he suddenly had no choice. Among the Yorozuya members, Kagura is physically the strongest. She has herculean strength that neither of the boys possesses and she can do the most difficult tasks only with one hand. Although Kagura can fairly control her strength, it still gives her problems sometimes and her urge for violence shows. Her love for food is uncontrollable, though!

Shinpachi Shimura

(CV: Daisuke Sakaguchi, Hyouka – Satoshi Fukube; Myriad Colors Phantom World – Shosuke Morahashi)

Shinpachi is Gintoki's first apprentice as a Yorozuya, thus the first freelancer under his tutelage. Shinpachi wants to learn the ways of being a samurai, so he joins Gintoki in his work. He lives with his older sister, who takes care of the dojo that their late father left behind. Shinpachi is a practical person, never really wanting to be burdened by all the debts caused by the dojo. However, because of his love for his sister, he agrees to keep the dojo. Although four-eyed Shinpachi is a bit clumsy, he is quick on his feet. He does not just wait around for things to happen; he makes things happen. He is often the first one to suggest what to do in times of trouble.

"My glasses are not for because I have bad eyesight."
– Shinpachi, definitely.



Core members of the Shinsengumi

Isao Kondo

(CV: Susumu Chiba, Vampire Knight – Takuma Ichijo; The Law of Ueki- Kilmorton)

Isao Kondo is the Shinsengumi commander. He is a gentle giant and is clueless most of the time. He spaces out in key moments and turns to Hijikata for help when the going gets tough. Despite his personality, the Shinsengumi police pay him a lot of respect because of his strong will to protect people. He has a crush on Shinpachi's sister.

"What does that mean?" -Kondo.

Toshiro Hijikata

(CV: Kazuya Nakai, One Piece – Roronoa Zoro; Kuroko no Basket – Imayoshi Shouichir)

Hijikata is infamous for being the Demon Vice-Chief among the Shinsengumi. What Kondo fails to do as the chief, Hijikata fills up for it, thrice as fierce than Kondo could ever do. He is the strategist and the tactician of Shinsengumi. He is found often very serious with his work that sometimes it becomes too funny to see. Hijikata is considered to be Gintoki's rival in the series as he has been beaten by Gintoki before, and also because they are similar in many ways.



"I am so tired and done" -Hijikata at everyone and everything.

Sougo Okita

(CV: Kenichi Suzumura, Free! Eternal Summer – Mikoshiba Momotarou; Kuroko no Basket – Murasakibara Atsushi)

Sougo is the Shinsengumi's master swordsman. But because he wants to kill Hijikata, he often holds a bazooka instead and secretly plots schemes to kill Hijikata. Oftentimes, he is not joking about that. However, Sougo is still good friends with him. He also respects Gintoki because they share the same sentiments on wanting to disgrace Hijikata. Personality-wise, Sougo is calm and a fast thinker.

"You are my friend but I want to kill you" – Sougo to Hijikata, 100%.

Other Characters: Tae Shimura

(CV: Satsuki Yukino, Inuyasha – Kagome Higurashi; Phi-Brain - Kami no Puzzle – Ana Gram)

Tae is Shinpachi's older sister. She upholds family traditions such as keeping their dojo even though they do not have samurai students. Tae looks sweet and kind, and she is indeed caring especially towards her brother. But she is a very tough lady that the guys around her do not want to mess with, aka Gintoki, Shinpachi, and Kondo.

"If apologies were enough, Seppuku wouldn't exist" – Shimura Tae, circa 2006

Kotaro Katsura

(CV: Akira Ishida, Bungou Stray Dogs – Fyodor Dostoyevsky; Dangan Ronpa: The Animation – Byakuya Togami)

Katsura is Gintoki's ally and a former classmate under their mentor's care. He despises the Amanto for conquering Japan.

Because of his constant acts of terrorism behind the scenes, he is always on the loose and the Shinsengumi chase after him. He is often in disguise because of this.

"it's not Zura, it's Katsura!" -Zura



Is Gintama ending soon?

It is rumored that after Gintama, it would be two seasons away from animating the manga's finale arc. However, these are mere speculations. After all, this is technically Gintama's ninth season of the anime and has had a long history of being continued despite the lack of material from the manga itself. Moreover, Hideaki-sensei has neither confirmed nor denied this information. So we can forget the question "what do we do with our lives when Gintama ends?" for now.

Gintama is fun, exciting, and oddly encouraging. If there is an anime that screams uniqueness in all levels, you've got them all rolled into one with Gintama. It isn't your typical comedy, action, and sci-fi anime and that's what we need these days to chase the boredom away. Watch and the name Gintoki Sakata will soon be a regular in your household!



CHARACTER BIO

OTABEK ALTIN

CV: Yoshimasa Hosoya

Nickname: The Hero of Kazakstan

Country: Kazakstan

Gender: Male

Birthday: October 21

Age: 18

Height: 168 cm

Program:
Short: Samarkand Overture

Free: Symphony No. 9 2nd Movement
"Advent"



Otabek is generally stoic and doesn't generally show his emotions on his face. While he himself is shy and quiet, his skating is eloquent and expressive. He tends to be more introverted, preferring to spend time alone rather than with other skaters. On rare occasions, Otabek's kindness reveals itself, such as him rescuing Yuri from the Yuri Angels, as well as clapping when Phichit congratulated Yuuri and Viktor on what Phichit assumed to be their marriage, and during Yuri's free skate at the Grand Prix Final.

source: yurionice.wikia.com

He is this month's character bio because of his friendship with Russia's prince, Yuri. Many doujins have even paired them together. More so now that even official art has included him along with the Yuri-Yuri-Viktor trio. Looking forward to seeing more of him if there would be a season 2? Us too!!

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GAMER'S ARENA

by Reikisha

WHAT'S IN THE BASEMENT, DEAR NEIGHBOR?

HELLO NEIGHBOR

You just moved in to an unfamiliar environment and noticed that there's a needlessly huge house just across yours. When you're about to greet the master of this house, you witnessed your neighbor's... strange behavior, especially when it comes to a boarded up door that leads to the basement. After seeing that, you came up with possible theories about what's behind your neighbor's basement.

Eh, why should you care? It's none of your business. At least, that's what your neighbor wants you to think.



Hello Neighbor is an upcoming stealth horror game currently in development by **Dynamic Pixels** and published by **tinyBuild Games**. As of this writing, the game is in alpha V.3 and it's scheduled to be released this summer 2017.

GAMEPLAY

In *Hello Neighbor*, your task is to uncover the secret behind your new neighbor's basement. To do that, you must break into his home and gather the necessary items needed to unlock and access his basement. Since this is a stealth game, the player must be extremely cautious when exploring the neighbor's house so that they won't get spotted. If the neighbor becomes aware of the player's presence inside his home, he will hunt the player down and kick them out.

The selling point of *Hello Neighbor* is the AI that can adapt to the player's behavior and counter their next break-in attempt with various items such as bear traps, CCTV cameras, and motion-sensor devices.



HELLO NEIGHBOR

REVIEW

Since the game is currently in the alpha phase, it's hard to write a review about *Hello Neighbor* as if it's a finished game. However, as someone who tried the alpha version, it's fair to say that this game has a lot of potential to become one of the biggest indie games of 2017. The reason why it's a stealth horror game is due to the dread and anxiety the players feel whenever they explore the neighbor's house. Also, the fact that the neighbor's AI becomes smarter after many break-in attempts can be either challenging or intimidating to some players.

Unlike other stealth-based games, there is no way for the player to fight back or preemptively assault the neighbor from behind. In the alpha version, the player can stop the neighbor's pursuit by throwing glue at him and hiding inside one of the closets in the house.

It's hard to tell whether the developers will keep the gameplay in the full version as it is or will they allow the player to assault the neighbor.

If you're interested in trying out *Hello Neighbor* for yourself, the alpha builds are currently available for free in Steam. But there's a high possibility that the full game has been released by the time you're reading this review, so please get that instead for a stealth horror experience without any bugs and glitches to worry about.

EXPLORE THE MODERN DAY XANADU

東京サナドウ TOKYO XANADU

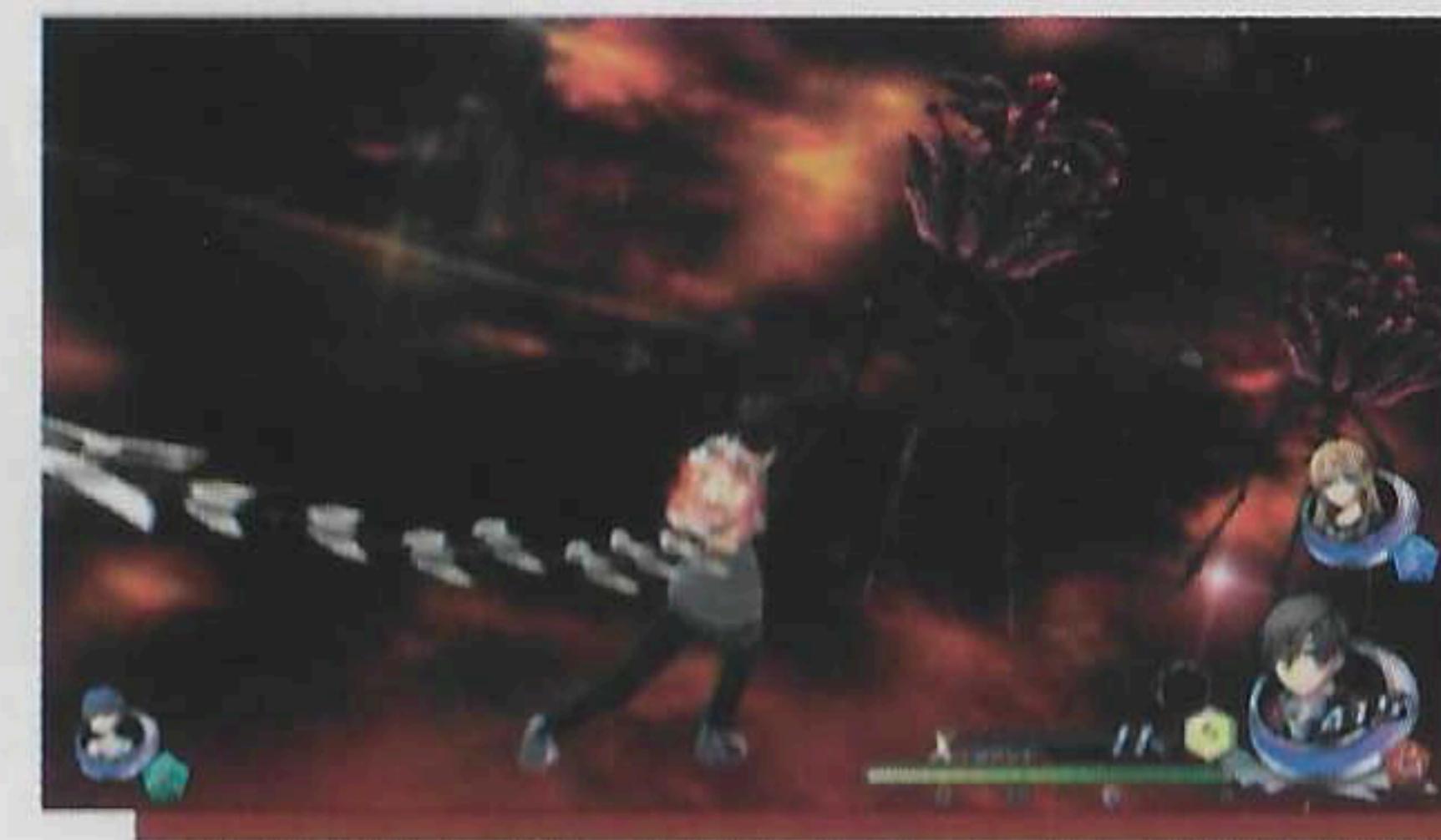


Tokyo Xanadu is an action RPG developed and published by Nihon Falcom for the PlayStation Vita. It was first released in Japan on September 30, 2015. The PlayStation 4 version of the game titled **Tokyo Xanadu eX+**, which features additional content, has also been released in Japan on September 8, 2016. Aksys Games will release the North American version of the game for the PlayStation Vita and PC sometime this 2017. There are no announcements regarding the localization of the PS4 edition at the moment.

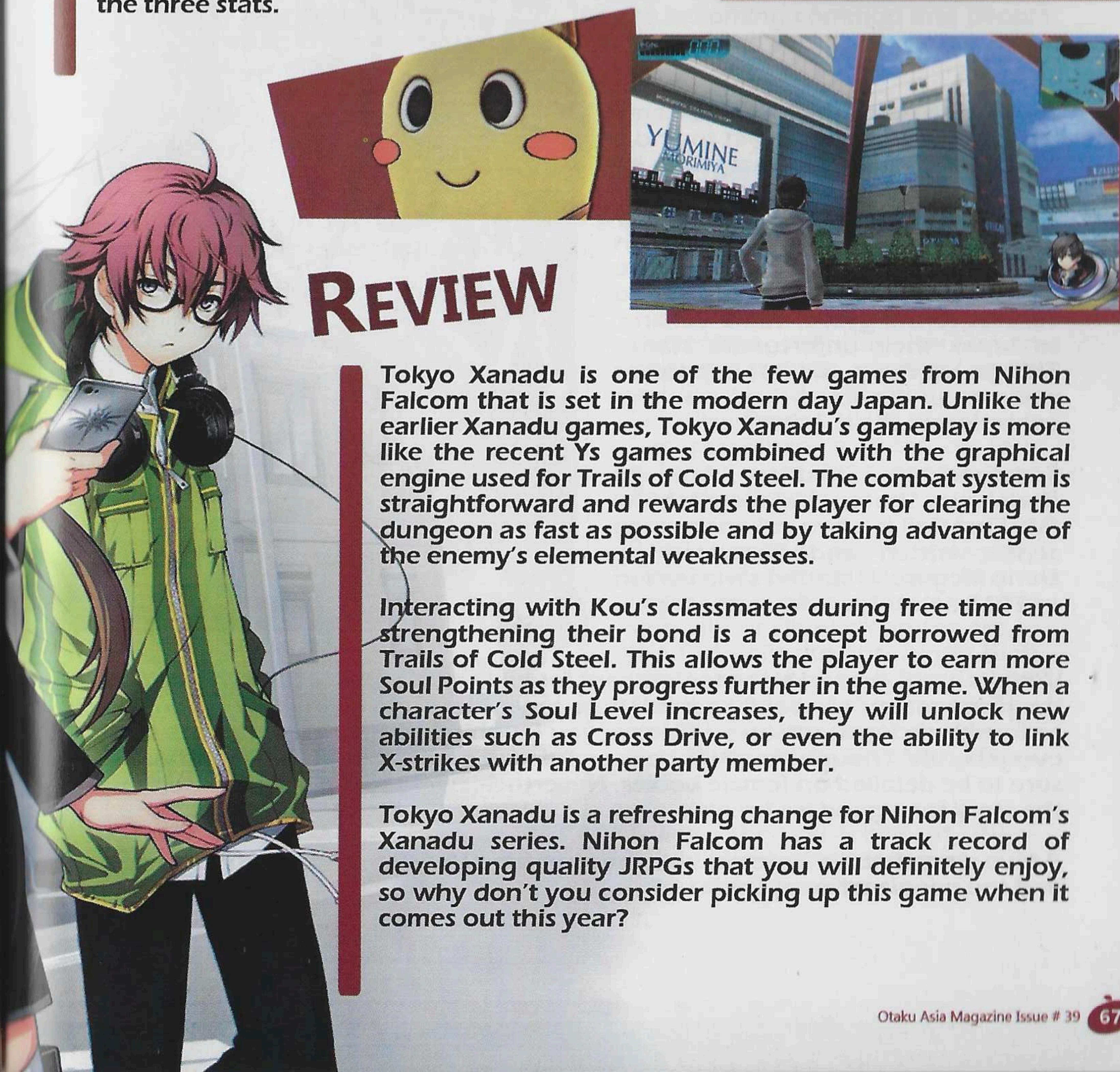
GAMEPLAY

Tokyo Xanadu is a real-time dungeon crawler game that lets the player control two playable characters in their party and one support member as they explore the Eclipse and fight against the Greed monsters within the dungeon. Inside the Eclipse, there are three main types of command: attack, jump, and evade. It's also possible to switch between characters during combat.

During free time, the player can accept quests from the NiAR memo, interact with NPCs, and increase one of the three important stats in the game: Wisdom, Courage, and Virtue. The player will be rewarded with useful items everytime they reach a higher rank in any of the three stats.



REVIEW



Tokyo Xanadu is one of the few games from Nihon Falcom that is set in the modern day Japan. Unlike the earlier Xanadu games, Tokyo Xanadu's gameplay is more like the recent Ys games combined with the graphical engine used for *Trails of Cold Steel*. The combat system is straightforward and rewards the player for clearing the dungeon as fast as possible and by taking advantage of the enemy's elemental weaknesses.

Interacting with Kou's classmates during free time and strengthening their bond is a concept borrowed from *Trails of Cold Steel*. This allows the player to earn more Soul Points as they progress further in the game. When a character's Soul Level increases, they will unlock new abilities such as Cross Drive, or even the ability to link X-strikes with another party member.

Tokyo Xanadu is a refreshing change for Nihon Falcom's Xanadu series. Nihon Falcom has a track record of developing quality JRPGs that you will definitely enjoy, so why don't you consider picking up this game when it comes out this year?



MANGA

by Elaine

High school life
= romance

HAJIMETE NO GAL

Spring, the season of love, has come already but Jun'ichi has yet to find a girlfriend. He thought that when he hits high school, getting one would be a bliss, but nah. He and his pervy friends were all having a pinch on finding their own romance, so in the middle of it, they forced Jun'ichi to confess to the gyaru, Yame Yukana, to break their unfortunate status. Things, however, did not happen as smooth as expected, and now his collection of "firsts" initializes!

Serialized in Shounen Ace by Kadokawa Shoten, Hajimete no Gal (My First Gal) is a two-volume manga series written and illustrated by Ueno Meguru. It started serialization in 2015 and is currently ongoing.



With its ecchi genre, this series is meant for male readers, especially the point that the protagonists are boldly perverts. These boys' ideas and actions for romance will seriously crack you up, and will leave you laughing to the ridiculousness of their everyday life. Though you might be careful reading it in public as the author made sure to be detailed on female bodies. Nevertheless, enjoy the light-heartedness of the story for a good ice breaker.

A love story that did not start with love but fun. What will happen to these couple and the people who set them up?

No more Ajin,
it's Demi now!

DEMI-CHAN WA KATARITA



There are a lot of Japanese folklore and myths based on 'ajin', humans in this world whose bodies are slightly different from normal. In the old days, they were merely legend, but then recently, they're becoming common and people began accepting their existence. Eventually, the ajins are naturally blending with normal people.

Takahashi Tetsuo is a biology teacher in Shibasaki High School for four years and is closely interested in ajins. During college, he tried to do thesis about ajins, but due to ethical reasons he wasn't able to gain permission from the authorities. Another problem was that he found it difficult to even encounter ajins. However, in his current school, he peculiarly encountered four ajins (students and a teacher) in just one day!



Demi-chan wa Kataritai is an ongoing seinen manga series written and illustrated by Petotsu. Since 2014, Kodansha has published a total of four volumes both in Japanese and English officially.

Small surprises in the everyday stories of Takahashi makes the series enjoyable. Moreover, the said ajin or demi creatures are in the form of cute and funny high school students, so it is quite fun and light to read the manga. The series also won second place in the DaVinci x NicoNico Tsugi 2016.

Follow the existence of these lovely demi and their own cute high school problems!

Voice for the Sake of the Universe eLDLIVE

From the author of *Katekyoushi Hitman Reborn!*, here comes another masterpiece we have to look forward to!

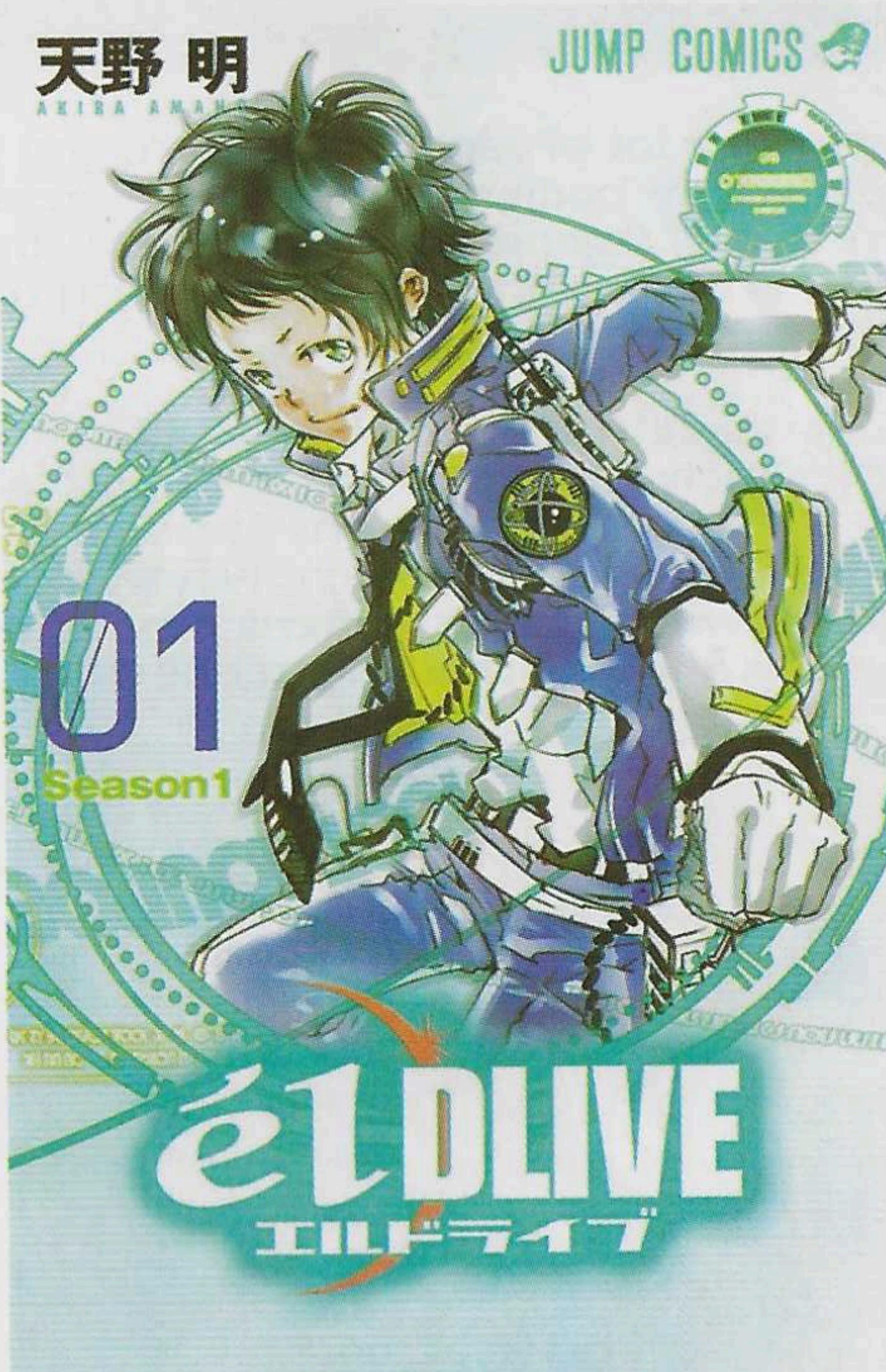
In his school, Chuuta Kokonose, an orphan who lived with his aunt, is notorious for mumbling and talking loudly to himself at random times. Thanks to this, his classmates think he is some kind of a weirdo.

During school, however, other unusual events suddenly started occurring around him. He is brought to a spaceship which appears to be the police station of eLDLIVE. Rein Brickke, the Chief of the Solar System Department, tells Kokonose that he is a candidate chosen by their mother computer of their police force.

After creating his successful series *Reborn* from 2006 to 2013, Amano Akira did not wait long to start another with eLDLIVE. It currently has eight volumes with 43 chapters and is also being published in *Shounen Jump* by Shueisha.

The story plot is certainly unique and worth it, and the book is much more interesting to read as the pages from cover to cover is colored! There are similarities in the character design, and to spoil a bit, there is yet another cute creature that we will see in this series! It is not surprising, therefore, that this January 2017, an anime adaptation of this series is set to air by Studio Pierrot.

Capture the bad guys, protect the universe with eLDLIVE!



Detectives of the Supernatural HAKONIWA NO REIJOU NO TANTEI

There is more in this world than meets the eye. Like spirits, unknown entities that might be lurking around us as we speak.

Akira Satou, a first year high school student, made his way to Hakoniwa Detective Agency where there is a rumored detective who specializes in occult. Apparently, the agency definitely exists and is lead by Yui Mikami together with her loyal butler Kujou.

When Akira was little, he was involved in an accident in the mountains and was rumored to be spirited away. After three days, he was found safe and sound near the entrance of the mountains and he believed that during those days something was keeping his company. He wanted to see and thank those spirits, thus asking Yui for help. Yui, thinking that he was taking the spirits lightly, let Akira see the world she sees for a short moment. But that same moment, Akira was dumbfounded and enlightened that it is not exactly the sight he was imagining.



Written by Tachibana Shinnosuke and illustrated by Okazaki Oka, 'Hakoniwa no Reijou no Tantei' is a manga series serialized in *Young Ace* by Kadokawa Shoten. It was initially published last 2013 and has a total of three volumes which were completely released.

The character designs up to the smallest details of the art is commendable. The story is something not totally unique, but is still worth the time to read. Its mystery and supernatural genre suits the target audience and the bits of romance which naturally blends in the story will surely fit the taste of adolescent boys.

Dive into the supernatural world we all are curious of together with Akira, Yui and her overprotective and loyal butler Kujou!



by Yani

AGAIN!!

If you were given the chance to go back to your past to change your wrong doings in the past, will you do it? But if you think of it, a single different action could lead into a different thing. You might end up on the different path before. Will you take the risk?

Kinichirou Imamura is often mistaken for being delinquent due to his appearance. In reality, he just doesn't know how to make friends with other people. He seeks to do better however, fate is very cruel to him, he had an accident on the day of his graduation from senior high.

He was trying getting in a room on the old school building by using the window of the room. Akira Fujieda: a girl from her school caught him and misunderstood what's happening then she accused from being a criminal the she ran away. . He tried to chase him; to explain that it was a misunderstanding

but when he was able to reach her, he saw her at the bottom of the stairs with blood on his head. He rushed to her but he slipped and ended up on the top of her. When he woke up, he found out that he returned on the first day of his highschool. He thought he was dreaming but he is not. Now that he is back, will he be able to correct the wrong things he has done and relieve his highschool life?

Again!! is a Japanese comedy shounen manga series written and illustrated by Mitsuro Kubo. It was also adapted into a 10 episode live action series in the year 2014.

I never expected what would be that there will be time travel involved with it but it goes smoothly with the theme and story and I believe the story has some impact in some people. This is one of a kind manga that you shouldn't miss.



by Yani

HOKUSAI MESHI SAE AREBA

There are things that we are talented and gifted. It could be in singing, dancing or cooking. However some of us were not confident in showing it or sharing it with other people like Bun.

Yamada Fumiko or known as Bun is a very shy girl. She lives with her stuff toy named Hokusai. When it comes to cooking, she is very good at it; making delicious food that takes only a little effort.

Hokusai to Meshi Sae Areba is a Japanese manga series written by Sanami Suzuki. It was published in the year 2014 by Kodansha and Serialized at Young Magazine. This 2017, a live-action was released which was directed by Tadaaki Horai, and

Keisuke. It was premiered in MBS and TBS in Japan. The Role of Bun was given to Mone Kamishiraishi which was her first leading role.

We often think that most delicious foods were hard to make but once we see Bun cook those food, she makes it seem easy to do and a little effort is needed. Not only that, we can see that it is really her talent plus she really enjoys doing it. We are somehow engaged to do and try all of the things he does when cooking.

There are lots of good manga with cooking genre and Hokusai Meshi Sae Areba is one of them so don't miss the opportunity of reading this one of a kind manga that you'll surely enjoy and love.

SHOUWA GENROKU RAKUGO SHINJUU

Rakugo, transliterated as *fallen words* in English, is a classic Japanese form of performance art where a sole storyteller, with nothing but a fan and a small cloth, sits on a stage and tells a long and winding comical story, complete with dialogue of two or more characters. With that long description alone, it's already easy to see that the craft isn't easy to get into. One man, however, seems to have been charmed by it. Follow how his love for Rakugo changed his life in *Shouwa Genroku Rakugo Shinjuu*.

The manga, which was written and drawn by Kumota Haruko, is about Yotaro, a young man who just got released from prison. Instead of finding a job or a home, the first thing he does as a free man is to go to the Rakugo theatre and become an apprentice of Master Yakumo, the man behind his favorite rakugo, which is Master Yakumo's rendition of Shinigami.

The seemingly "old-school" art that perfectly sets the mood for not only a 1930's Japan that's moving from the traditional to the modern, but also a mellow yet funny tale about old-school one-man comedies and one man's love for them. The characters and the story, too, carry this absurdity and charm that further establishes the comical atmosphere of the comic.

But despite all those praises, the manga's central theme and setting of the manga, it's not going to be everyone's cup of tea, and those who find both the manga and the craft it's based on as lovely is going to love it. And maybe, just maybe, you'd be one of them.



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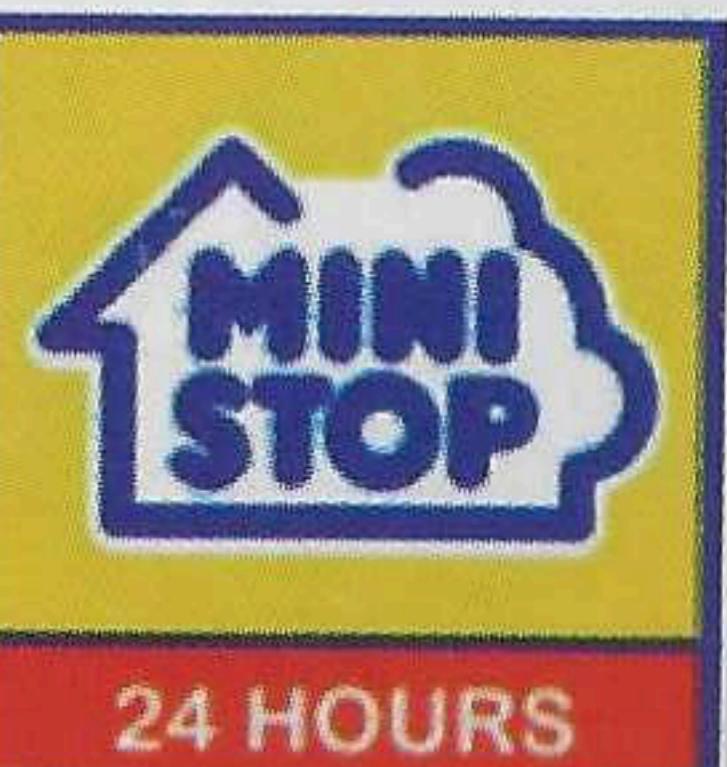
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REVIEW



by James

KOBAYASHI-SAN CHI NO MAID DRAGON

One night, an office worker named Kobayashi comes across an injured dragon named Tohru who had come from another world. Wanting to repay Kobayashi's hospitality, Tohru starts living with her as a maid, soon attracting the attention of other dragons who come to the human world.

Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon (Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid) is an anime based on the manga of the same name. Written and illustrated by Coolkyoushinja, the series began serialization in Futabasha's *Monthly Action* magazine in May 2013 and is ongoing.

The series is being directed by Yasuhiro Takemoto at Kyoto Animation and began airing in Japan from 11 January 2017. Yuka Yamada is writing the scripts, Miku Kadowaki is the character designer, Nobuaki Maruki is the chief animation director, and the music is composed by Masumi Ito.

Thank you KyoAni for this beauty.



The series is a slice-of-life anime about a mythical creature trying to integrate with humanity, or more particularly, with one human. It's not exactly an unexplored theme, but *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon* does so from a day-to-day perspective. The show also manages to depict how mismatched the two protagonists are, not just in the conventions of each other's lives, but also their characters. And when the series zooms in on Tohru's perspective, her adherence to her dragon ways, to the point of impracticality, gives the show its hilarity.

With an interesting premise and an equally interesting female lead pair, *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon* is a blast. Who knew living with a fire-breathing reptile would be the good and funny kind of chaos?

The fandom focuses mostly on how cute Kanna is but focus on the lesbian (?) love that Kobayashi and Tohru has because female relationship in anime is not popular at all. As compared to gay romance, yuri themes get little to no recognition and that's why I want to cherish this anime. Please try it for yourself.





by James

FUUKA

Youth, music, dreams, friendship, and love – all the things that make teenage life worth living. These things are also the core of the latest manga of beloved (and kind of a troll) author **Seo Kouji** to have an anime adaptation. So, what's the title of the series? **Fuuka**, after the story's heroine. So, what's the deal with her? Tune in to find out...and fall in love.

Despite the title of the show, the story is about **Yu Haruna**, your typical new kid in town. He's more into Twitter than your usual kid, but that's only because he wants to be updated with what's hot, and he wants to make new friends. This obsession with a social media platform, however, wanes because of **Fuuka Akitsuka**, cute, charming, quite weird, and always has headphones on, so she obviously loves music. Mistaking him for a pervert, she breaks his phone, much to the surprise and shock of our hero. But because of a turn of events that made Fuuka realize Yu's goodness, coolness, and love for music, they decided to go out. Thus begins the two's journey in music, and Yu's budding feelings for Fuuka.

Story-wise, **Fuuka** is rather simple, but that's its very strength. After all, a boy falling for a one-of-a-kind girl that livens his life, while hardly original, is a timeless theme, and the show



makes it as relatable as possible in order to satisfy its audience. As for the characters, while they follow certain archetypes, they very much have a personality of their own, giving them – and more importantly, the show and its music – so much heart.

The art direction is quite generic and nowhere near as atmospheric as other harem-romance-slice of life titles, the looks of the characters capture Seo Kouji's vision; they're also well-drawn and move fluidly. The music, being one of the show's central themes, is a bit of a mixed bag. Most of the background music, like the art direction, is too typical, and sometimes it just doesn't match the supposed feel of the scene. The soundtrack, however, shines, both the opening and ending themes, as well as the songs that are part of the plot. Such a shame though, that the last is quite few and far in between.

But despite all the problems **Fuuka** has, it's nevertheless an enjoyable romp if you take it for what it is – a lighthearted romance anime with likeable characters and great music. And the fact that it's from Seo Kouji, one of the best romance manga authors, is a definite plus. Give it a shot and stick around, who knows? Maybe **Fuuka** is for you.





by James

CHAOS;CHILD

Good premise, bad execution, and a second season that went downhill – this is how a lot of people remember *Chaos; Head*. Quite a shame, as the show had much promise. Thankfully, the psychological horror-mystery will have its chance to redeem its name in the anime scene. How? With an equally bloody and haunting sequel, *Chaos; Child*.

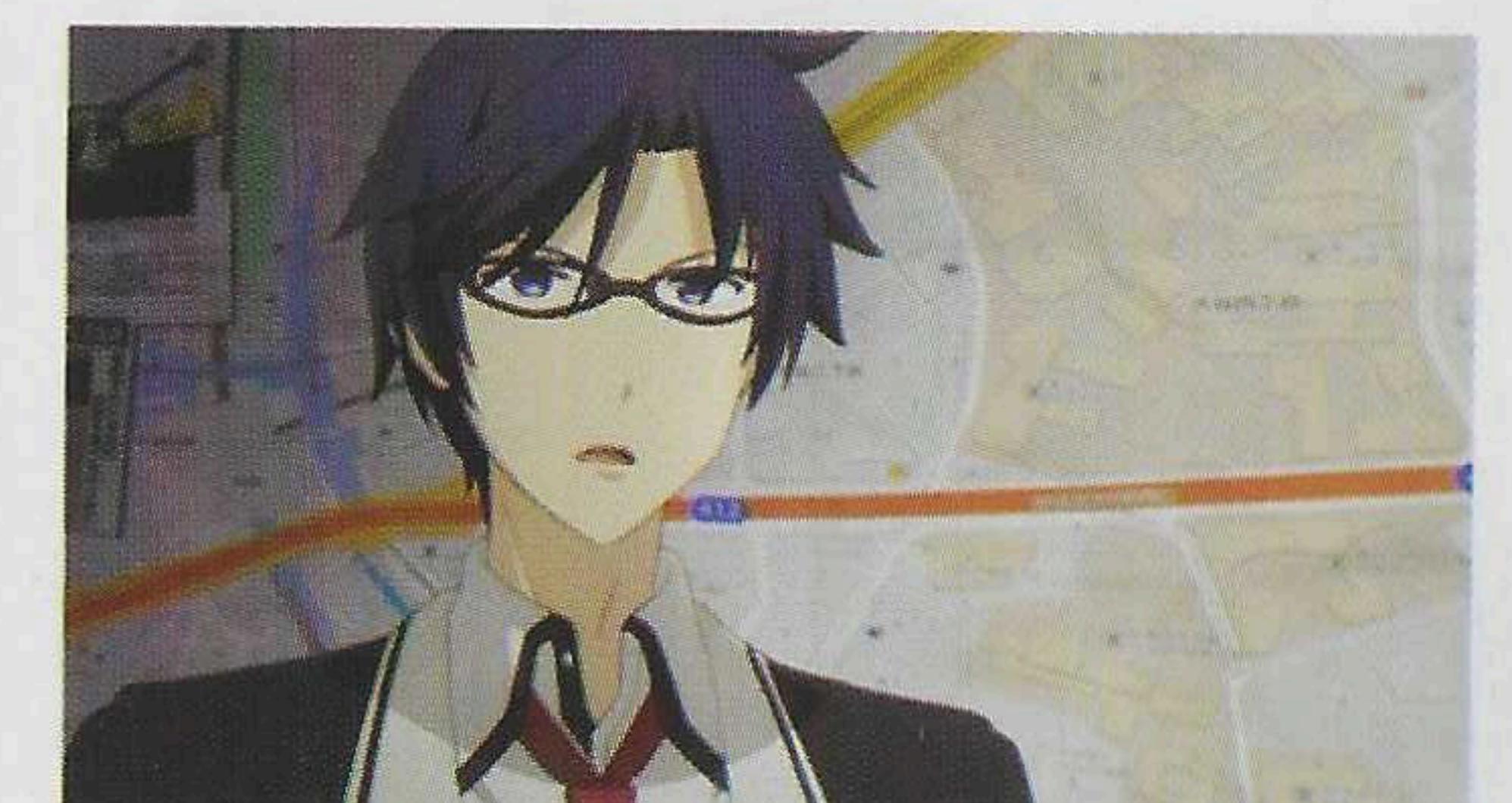
Six years after the events of *Chaos; Head*, *Chaos; Child* opens with the recurrence of mysterious and horrible deaths and suicides in the Shibuya district known as New Generation Madness, and with this comes the spinning of online rumor mills regarding these incidents. Interested in these happenings is Takuru Miyashiro, president of Hekihou Academy's newspaper club. What was supposed to be a mere scoop, however, takes a turn for the grave when he passes out, and he and his friends begin receiving threats.

The show is not a direct sequel, making it accessible to those who haven't watched (or have no plans of watching) *Chaos; Head*. It does,

however, help to have watched the prequel to be familiar with what's going on, as it's easy to get lost in an already established mythos. Thankfully, the story isn't difficult to follow; the exposition is woven in the narrative; and the characters, especially the lead, aren't too over-the-top. Meanwhile the art, while nothing groundbreaking, evokes a sense of eeriness and ominousness in scenes that matter, especially when backed by a dark and deep theme.

And even in low-intensity scenes, the show still retains a sense of urgency, as though there is always a danger looming. As for the characters, their anime-ness doesn't dampen the threat the anime's air manages to create, and are rightfully subjected by it without seeming overly dramatic.

If you're into *Chaos; Head*, or simply the psychological horror mystery genre, then *Chaos; Child* is for you. Hopefully this spine-tingling successor surpasses the previous one.





by James

REWRITE SEASON 2

The Rewrite series has been known for its haunting and ethereal imagery, as well as its diverse set of characters. And if you can't get enough of this adaptation of that quaint and atmospheric visual novel by Key, then you'd be pleased to know that it's getting a second season.

Rewrite season 2 revisits **Kotarou Tennoji**, the series' rambunctious yet introspective lead, and his life in

Kazamatsuri, a small yet quiet and beautiful city with rather refined tastes and aesthetics, qualities that doesn't seem to fit Kotarou's personality. And now, in the story's second season, the focus shifts from the exploration of the different character routes, and onto the Moon and Terra arcs, both of which make up the true ending of the visual novel.



The show retains its enigmatic air, as well as its slightly confusing plot, for its second season. That, however, is unavoidable, given the fact that the source material also is quite confusing. But despite that drawback, the second season of Rewrite is as visually stunning and moving as ever. It's also generally better than the previous season, especially when it comes to character development, so those who have qualms

with season 2 don't have to fret about it.

If you've already watched the first season of Rewrite and were left hanging and wanting more of not only the storyline but also of overall quality, then Rewrite season 2 is a must-watch.



Ao No Exorcist Season 2

It's not uncommon for a lot of anime, even popular and big-budget ones, to have a long gap between seasons, for a wide variety of reasons. A good example of this would be *Ao No Exorcist*. It was a rather long and frustrating half-decade of waiting, but it's finally here. Now we get the lowdown on this season's much-awaited returnee.

For those who want to get into *Ao No Exorcist*, especially now that it has a second season, here's to get you up to speed: the show is about Rin Okumura, an orphaned boy who, along with his brother Yukio, was raised by Father Shiro Fujimoto, an exorcist. One day, he learns who his true father is: Satan himself, and shortly after his adoptive father is killed. This awakens his powers: the ability to draw the demon-slaying sword Kurikara, and summon blue flames that can consume almost anything they come in contact with. From that point on, Rin enrolls in True Cross Academy, an exorcist cram school that is also the Japanese branch of a powerful international exorcist organization. Thus begins his life as a true blue exorcist.



As for those who've already been following the series, the second season will be all about the Kyoto Arc, directly picking up from season 1's episode 17. The exorcists go to Kyoto in order to meet Ryuji's family and protect the left eye of the Impure King, a powerful demon. The eye, however, was stolen, thus leading to the Impure King's revival.

The season, which will run for 12 episodes, will still be produced by A-1 Pictures, so rest assured that the art style and the quality is going to be consistent with that of the first season. The opening theme, *Itteki no Eikyō* (Drop's Influence), will also be by Uverworld, which is going to get fans of the first season happy and nostalgic. The ending theme, on the other hand, is *Kono Te De* (With This Hand) by Rin Akatsuki.

Ao No Exorcist's second season is a worthy and faithful continuation to the anime adaptation, and is worthy of the long wait. If you're a fan, watch it. And if you're yet to be one, then now would be the perfect time to catch up.

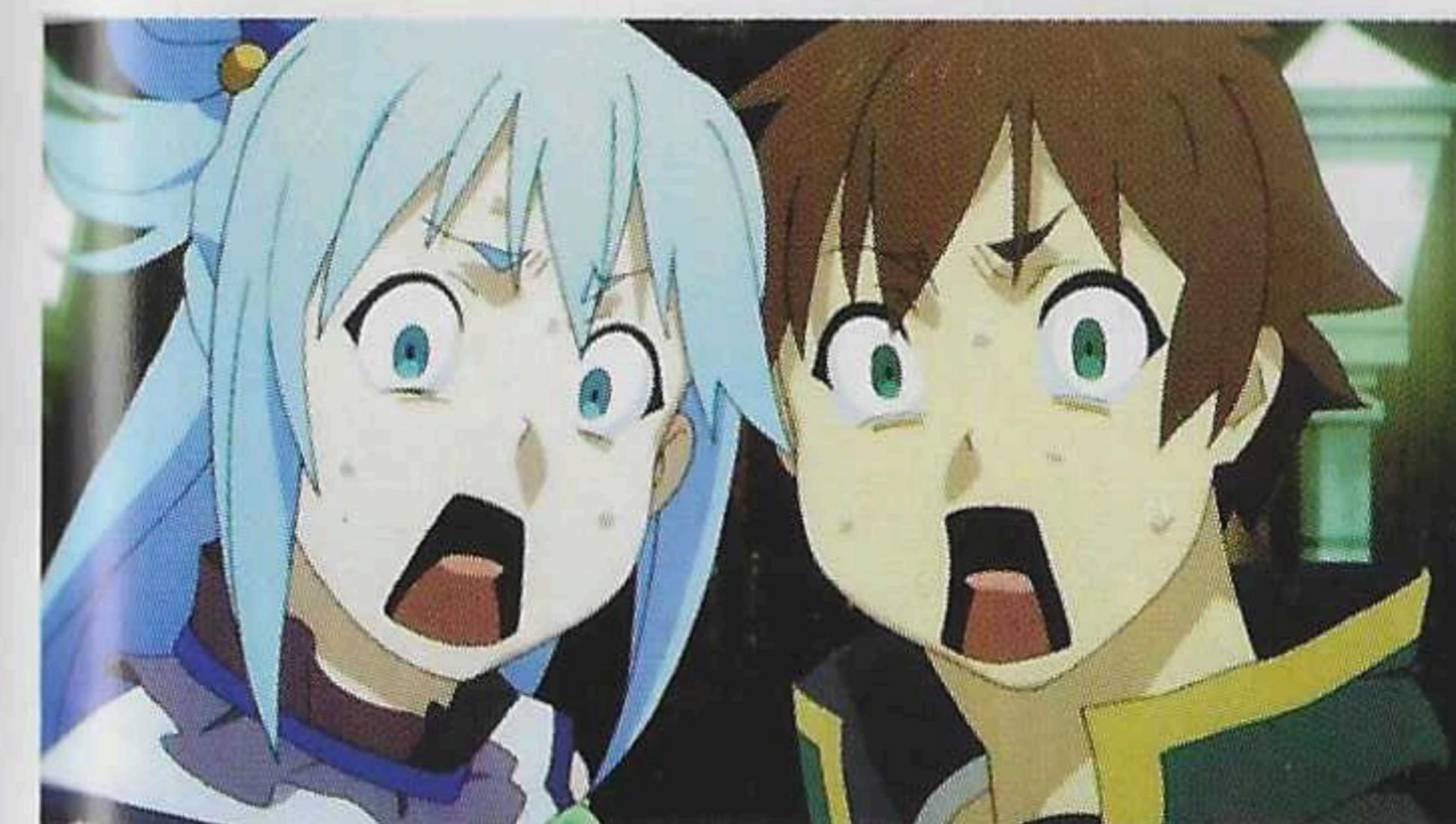




by James

KONOSUBA SEASON 2

KonoSuba has become an unexpected and massive hit, and it owes its success to its unabashedly crude and simple humor, as well as its refusal to be pretentious. And now, by popular demand, KonoSuba is back with a second season. More laughs, more mishaps in a fantasy world, more scenes your mother definitely wouldn't want to see you watching, and of course, more explosions.



For the uninitiated, KonoSuba, shorthand for Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku wo (Gifting This Wonderful World With Blessings)!, is about an introverted high school student and gamer Kazuma Satou. Upon dying in a rather unceremonious manner, the goddess Aqua asks him if he wants to move on to paradise, or live in a real-life fantasy world. Being the gamer that he is, he chooses the latter, and brings along Aqua with him. But with Kazuma being new to the world and Aqua being surprisingly of not much use despite being a goddess, misadventures and humor ensue.

As for those who have already been following the show, the show's second season began January of 2017, and has Machico singing the opening theme, and Sora Amamiya, Rie Takahashi, and Ai Kayano singing the ending theme as Aqua, Megumin, and Darkness.

If you've watched the first season, then you know what to expect with the series: humor, crazy happenings, and lots and lots of parodies of the tropes of trapped in an MMORPG action-adventure anime and the game genre they're based on.

KonoSuba is a wonderful gift to the world of anime, as it's a smart but funny parody of the tried and tired stuck in an MMO subgenre. And with its second season, the gift just got bigger.





MOVIE REEL

by kandy

That power...

The movie is based on an original story set in the Stela/Stella Kingdom (ステラ王国), located on a lone island surrounded by cliffs. The original Fairy Tail characters will be seen in new outfits, and new characters will join the cast as well.

劇場版 FAIRY TAIL DRAGON CRY



FAIRY TAIL
DRAGON CRY



is it hope or destruction...?

Out of all the long-running manga and anime series out there, *Fairy Tail* is the one I personally follow every update. Since its debut in 2009, Hiro Mashima's manga has since become one of Japan's most popular franchises. However, the anime has not produced many movies. The first was *Fairy Tail: Phoenix Priestess* which was released back in 2012.

If you are new, the story follows a Celestial magic user, Lucy Heartfilia who joins the mage guild, *Fairy Tail*. Along with Natsu, Gray and Erza, she works to better her skills. The guild faced threats, disbandment, other worlds and dragons. The Rave Master creator has created so many characters this time and they are all loved by the readers so much that the series had continued to date.

Studio GAGA on January released the information regarding the second film, *Fairy Tail: Dragon Cry*. The movie is slated for May 6 in Japan.

Mashima is drawing 193 pages of storyboard for the film (pictured below), and is also serving as executive producer. Mashima also drew the first key visual for the film, which features Natsu half transformed into a dragon.

This year's 12th issue of Kodansha's Weekly Shōnen Magazine announced the returning cast and character designs for the following characters:

- Tetsuya Kakihara as Natsu Dragneel
- Aya Hirano as Lucy Heartfilia
- Rie Kugimiya as Happy
- Yūichi Nakamura as Gray Fullbuster
- Sayaka Ohara as Erza Scarlet
- Satomi Satou as Wendy
- Yui Horie as Carla/Charle

Stating as well that the cast will have new outfits for the film. There will also be some new original characters: Sonia, Zash and Animus. All sketched by Mashima.

Tatsuma Minamikawa (episode director for *Aldnoah.Zero*, *Attack on Titan*, *Haganai NEXT*) is directing the film at A-1 Pictures. Shoji Yonemura is returning from the previous two television anime series to write the script, Yuuko Yamada (chief animation director for *Hakkenden: Eight Dogs of the East*, *Persona 3 the Movie #3 Falling Down*) is the character designer and chief animation director, and Yasuharu Takanashi is returning from the previous anime series and *Fairy Tail Zero* to compose the music.

(source: animenewsnetwork.com)

From the official website, a short intro teases that *Fairy Tail: Dragon City* will be the "final chapter" of the series.



(source: [Weekly Shonen Magazine](http://www.shonenmagazine.com))

We look forward to this! If you dropped the series or have not yet started, it is a great time to do so now!



REQUEST



BOKU DAKE GA INAI MACHI Press Restart

by Ann

"Time waits for no one," written in *The Girl Who Leapt through Time*, but what if someone could use time to restart things? He might just be the only key to bring the truth to light and set the innocent free.

In every way, time is a gift that we must cherish because we hardly have control over it, but struggling mangaka Satoru Fujinuma experiences "Revival," the ability to be sent back into a time in the past. At first, he uses it to save lives, that is, until he must save himself from the accusation of killing his mother and prevent her murder. The bigger mystery he must solve lies in finding out a serial killer from 1988 who was also behind a kidnapping

case of his elementary classmates.

A-1 Pictures produced the animé series entitled *Boku Dake ga Inai Machi* or *ERASED* based on the manga written by Kei Sanbe for *Young Ace Magazine*. The adaptation premiered in the beginning of 2016 and ended with the 12th episode in March. For the series, Taku Kishimoto wrote the composition, Tomohiko Ito directed, and Keigo Sasaki created the character design.

Playing on the idea of time travel, the plot creates a luring effect on the readers with the mystery of the killing and kidnapping incidents. The search for truth becomes an addictive chase that is coupled with Satoru's use of "Revival" that makes viewers at the edge of their seats to see how his attempts to change the past can affect the future. After all, many stories with the theme of time travel either have a future changed or unaffected by an alteration in the past. In the case of *ERASED*, Satoru makes the changes to "erase" threats in the future, but we can only guess what's to be the outcome of his feats since he jumps to 18 years ago. Aside from this storyline, *ERASED* is also acclaimed for the effective use of cinematic effects as it's not an easy task to show the shift from Satoru's present to past. To make this easy for the viewers to spot, the framing of the scenes in which he is in the past is different, with a narrower point of view.

Stop guessing how Satoru unravels a mystery and save lives and get yourself in a nostalgic trance with *ERASED*!



USAGI DROP Happiness Comes as Raindrops

by Ann

Kids frantically run around and leave a mess wherever they go. They also create disturbing noises that make any adult embarrassed when they're together in public. However, no matter how hard parenting is, many still choose to be with these critters. What can they see behind this chaotic picture?

Daikichi Kawachi had just lost his grandfather when he meets a young girl named Rin Kaga, his grandfather's illegitimate daughter. Because he is angry about his relatives wanting to get her adopted, he volunteers to take care of her. While struggling with this unplanned parenthood, Daikichi finds himself amazed at how simple and happy life can be.

Usagi Drop is an animé adaptation of Yumi Unita's manga in 2006, which aired in 2011. It was even nominated for Eisner Awards the year prior. The 11-episode series with 4 bonus episodes was produced by Production I.G. Kanta Kamei directed the series while Taku Kishimoto handled the series composition and the script.

This series offers a refreshing break

from popular animé as it tackles a relevant social issue but looks at it from optimistic lens. It's slice of life with generous portions of comedy, enabling viewers to see the delights of being a parent, especially with a cute kid like Rin. Knowing nothing about being a parent but having a heart for the child makes Daikichi an endearing character as he makes all the necessary adjustments in his single life to see to it that her needs are met.

The light-heartedness of *Usagi Drop* is also reflected on the soft tones of color of the animation, seeming like a watercolor painting. While the charming premise of a great parent-child relationship blossoming is a great hook for any viewer, the show does not simply sugar coat adult responsibility, giving little but significant examples of love and concern.

Tugging at our heartstrings, *Usagi Drop* brings to mind that while we encounter some difficulties, there's a lot to be thankful for, especially when it's someone that reminds us of happiness in the little things. It's a special reminder of happiness coming down like raindrops.



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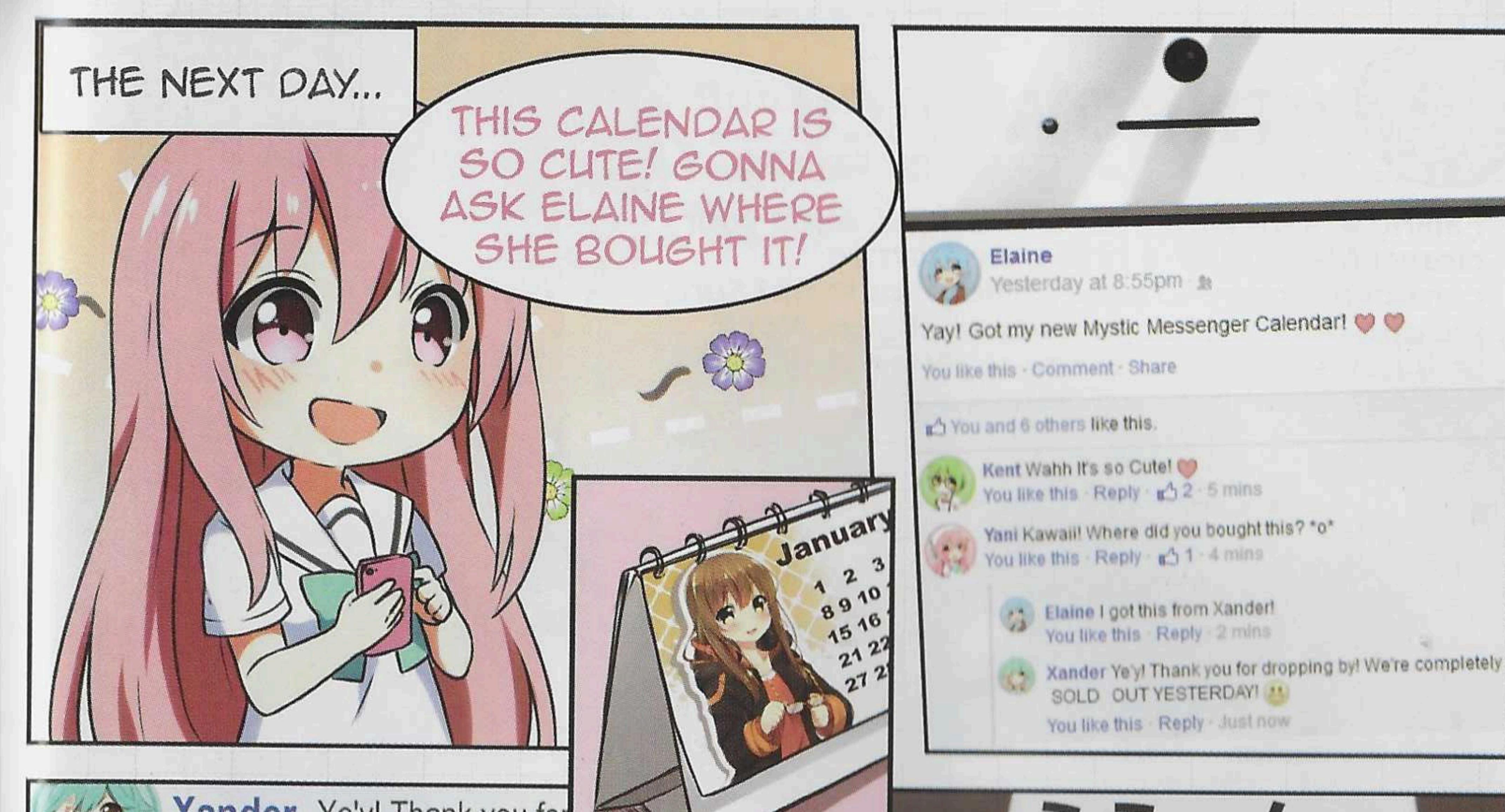
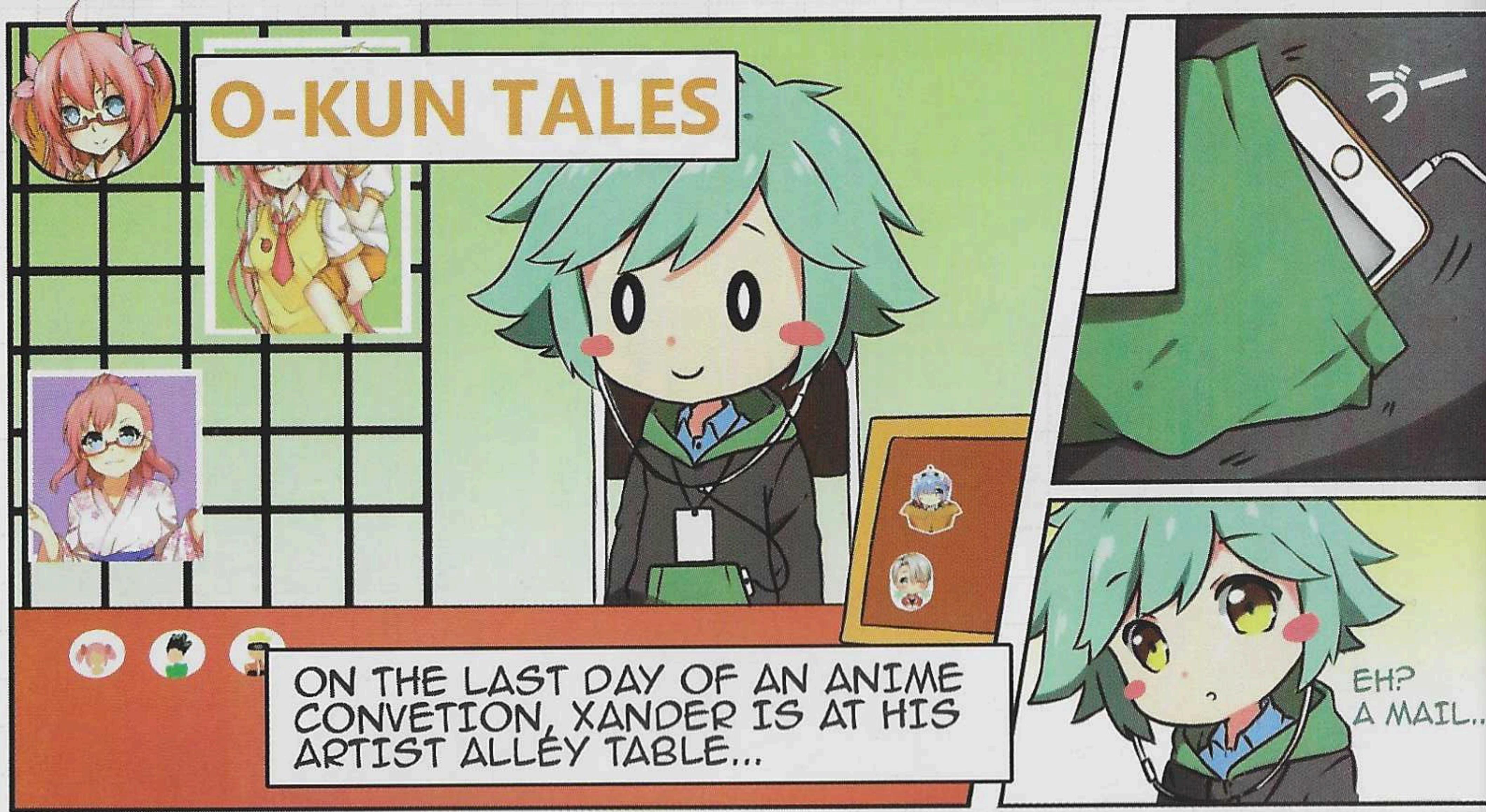
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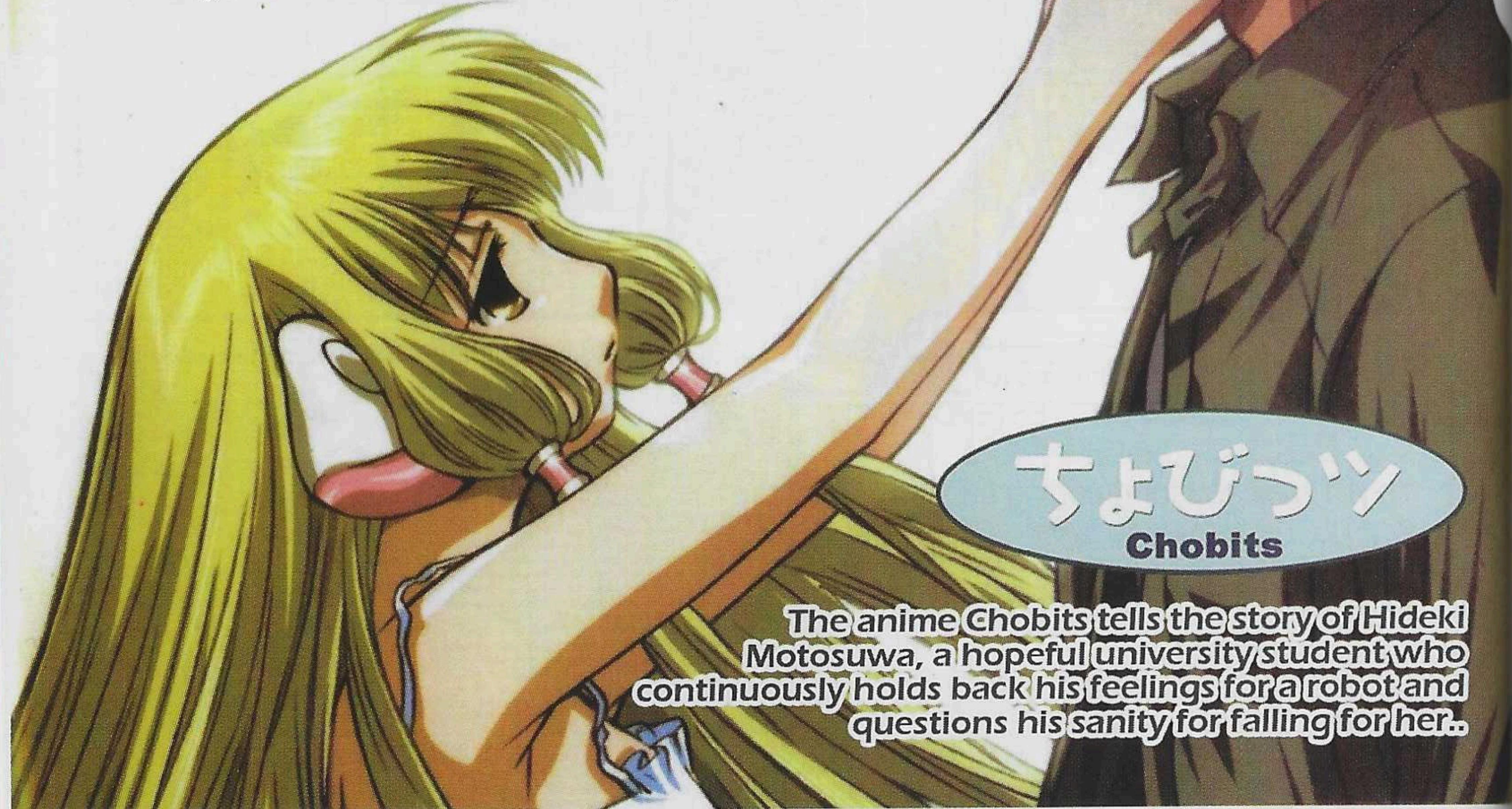
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#THROWBACK

by: lizac 3.0

Falling in love with friends is normal, but if your closest friend were a robot, would it be considered crazy to have feelings for them? Sure, we also get attached to material things. Not if that non-living thing seems to return your feelings, then that's a different story.



The anime *Chobits* tells the story of Hideki Motosuwa, a hopeful university student who continuously holds back his feelings for a robot and questions his sanity for falling for her..

As a cram school student, Hideki often goes back home late. On one instance, he finds a beautiful girl in a pile of trash on his way home and immediately brings her home. The girl is a persocom, an android that also functions as a computer. As soon as she is booted up, she warms up to Hideki. Although she has only said the syllable "Chi" as a response to Hideki, her facial expressions differ. Hideki decides to call her "Chii" and decides to take care of her despite his busy schedule. He tries to research more about Chii and eventually discovers that she does not look like any ordinary persocoms listed up in the registry. Hideki's genius friend suspects that Chii belongs to a unique set of persocom that was created to have free will and emotions. Soon enough, Chii starts to show behavior that she may be falling for Hideki.

Chobits is originally a manga published by Kodansha in the year 2000

and ended in 2002. Just a fast read with eight volumes, *Chobits* was immediately produced into an anime with 26 episodes that aired in 2002 as well, under the animation studio Madhouse. *Chobits* was shown in English networks Animax and Funimation channel, and has been replayed over a few times.

What is *Chobits*' trademark and legacy? Anyone who has been an anime enthusiast ever since, would know that this era saw the depiction of struggling male university student protagonist and the heroine keeping them upright. *Chobits* is one of them, and it is a hit to many. Also, *Chobits* fans would always know how to say "Chii", just like the way Chii utters it: cute, soft, and quiet.

Chobits taught us that with two people (in this case, a person and a persocom) in love, there are literally no boundaries. Do include *Chobits* in your to-watch throwback list as it celebrates its 15th year anniversary this spring 2017.

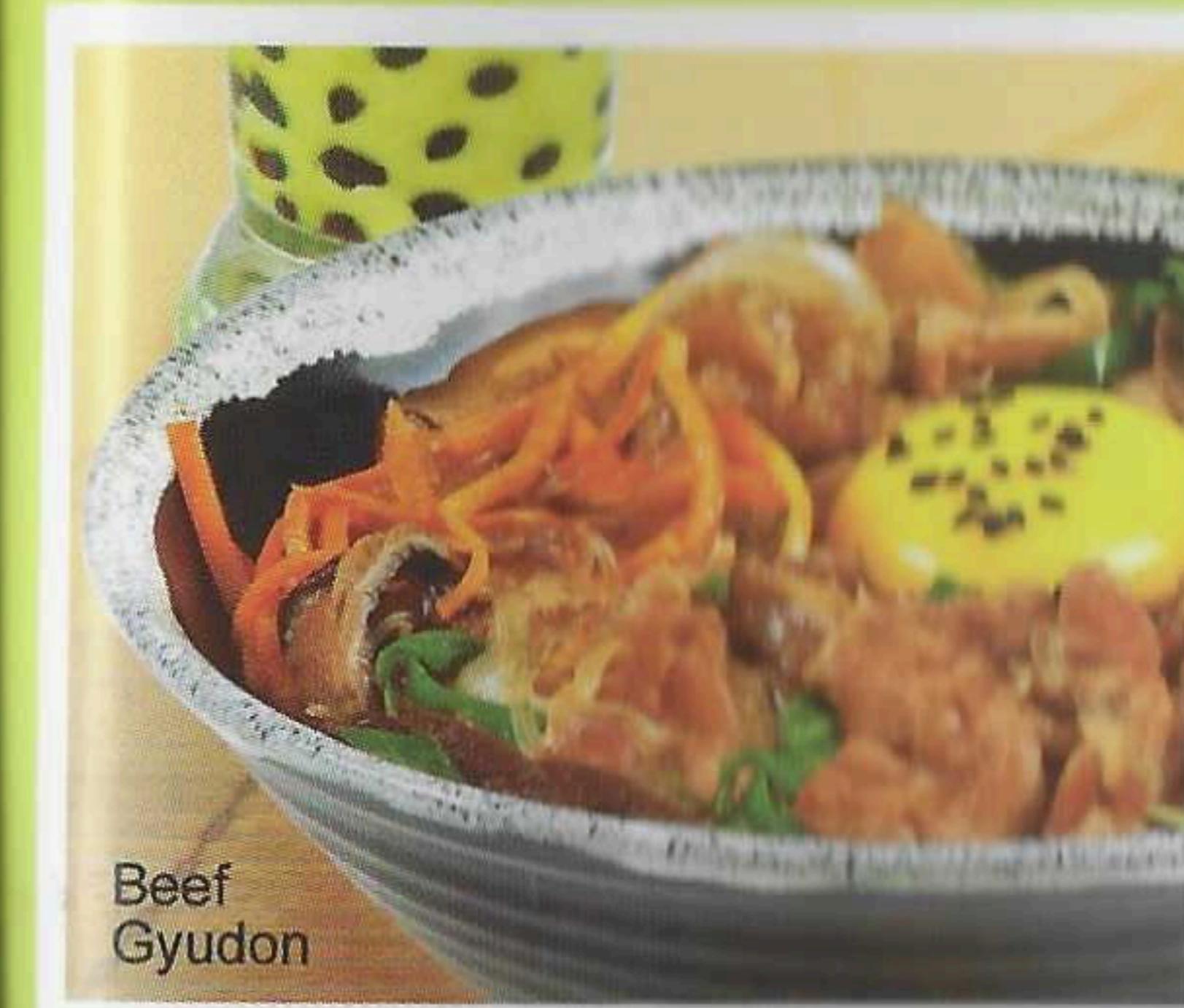


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